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SUBJECT: EMBASSY PARIS SUBMISSION TO THE 2005/2006 REPORT
TO CONGRESS ON ALLIED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMON DEFENSE

REF: A. STATE 223383

[B. PARIS 000005](#)

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[11.](#) (U) Summary: This telegram constitutes Embassy Paris's country submission for the 2005/2006 Report to Congress on Allied Contributions to the Common Defense (requested Ref A). We report on developments that took place during calendar years 2004 and 2005 and offer cost sharing information for U.S. fiscal years 2004 and 2005. Embassy's contributions to the Report to Congress are keyed to paragraphs in Ref A where specific information is requested. End Summary.

Ref A Para 8: General Assessment

Overview

[12.](#) (U) France bears a significant share of the burden of defending international security and stability. It is firmly committed to conflict resolution, non- and counterproliferation, as well as to maintaining adequate conventional and nuclear capabilities. Only a few nations have the military capability to project power to a distant theater and sustain operations. France is one of these nations. It has the military personnel, equipment, and command capabilities as well as the will to employ them throughout the world. It is this total operational capability, and the resolve to act on the international stage, which allows the French military to participate and lead in an international framework, including through the European Union and NATO. Africa comprises the heaviest French military commitment abroad. However, France is also a significant contributor to international military operations in Central--Southwest Asia and the Balkans. By helping to stabilize sensitive areas in Central Asia, the Balkans, or in Sub-Saharan Africa, overseas operations led by the French Armed Forces have helped to prevent those areas from becoming safe-havens for terrorist activity. Throughout 2004 and 2005, France has been a major contributor in the fight against terrorism as part of the international coalition in Afghanistan. As such, France volunteered to participate under the command of the United States in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Moreover, security, stabilization and training operations led by the French Armed Forces within the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) is helping Afghanistan in its transition from a terrorist sanctuary to a growing democracy.

[13.](#) (U) France maintains the largest active duty military force in the European Union and the second largest active duty military force in NATO, with an active force of approximately 355,000. Furthermore, France sustains a large percentage of this active duty force deployed in operations in overseas French territories or in sovereign territories around the world. The average number of deployed forces outside of France was 35,000 in 2004, and 32,500 in 2005. Over 13,500 of those deployed are actively engaged in international mandates supporting counter-terrorist operations, humanitarian operations, peacekeeping operations, stability operations, and capacity building. To support this level of external international mandate operations, France spends approximately USD 790 million per year from a defense budget of 52 billion dollars.

France's Global Reach: Peace Support Operations Worldwide

[14.](#) (U) France eagerly participates in international peace support operations and is a leading force contributor to stabilization operations in the Balkans and in Africa. In Cote d'Ivoire, France's most significant overseas

operation, French troops enforce a tenuous cease-fire and are providing the backbone to the United Nations operation as a quick reaction force. French troops have been actively engaged since the summer of 2004 in preventing the Darfur crisis from expanding into Chad. In the Balkans, French troops are present in every military mission across Bosnia, Kosovo, and Macedonia: SFOR/EUFOR, KFOR, UNMIBH, UNMIK, EUMM, and ALTHEA. During "Operation Secure Tomorrow," to stabilize Haiti, France deployed the second largest contingent alongside the United States. Contributing troops under international mandate is a point of principle in Paris. The UN, where France has a veto as a permanent member of the Security Council, is its preferred forum for crisis resolution. France has observers currently participating in UN missions in the Balkans, Georgia, Lebanon, Israel, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Burundi, DROC, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Western Sahara, and Haiti. It also participates in the multinational force in the Sinai.

France and the War in Iraq

15. (U) The French government has forbidden its military from contributing troops to the NATO training mission inside Iraq (NTM-1). One French officer is working on the training mission staff at SHAPE Headquarters in Belgium, and the GoF pledged 660,000 euros in February 2005 to help finance NTM-1. In 2005, the GoF took initial steps to contribute to the development of Iraqi defense and security capabilities. Under the European Union's EUJUSTLEX program, France has pledged to train 200 Iraqi police officials and judges in rule of law training in France, making France the top EU contributor to this program. Approximately 40 Iraqi police officials (non-military) completed month-long training at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Officiers de Police and the Ecole Nationale de Police in 2005. A third course started at the end of 2005 for judicial instruction at the Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature. At the same time, a French offer to train up to 1,500 Iraqi paramilitary police (gendarmes) outside Iraq remains unimplemented, although an Iraqi Ministry of Interior delegation visited France in July 2005 to further discuss the proposal. Currently there is a single Gendarme Officer in Iraq, responsible for provision of security for French embassy staff in Baghdad.

France and the War on Terrorism

16. (U) France is currently the third-largest contributor to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, and one of the few nations other than the U.S. to have had troops engaged in Operation Enduring Freedom. ISAF and training programs for the Afghan army since these efforts began. French Mirage-2000 fighters have flown with USAF fighters to assist American and Afghan ground troops. French deployments to the Horn of Africa remain focused on counterterrorism; the French assisted in the establishment of USCJTF Horn of Africa, and otherwise continue to allow the U.S. to share their base in Djibouti in connection with operations in the Indian Ocean, Red Sea and Persian Gulf. France is a part of Task Force 150, a multinational naval force that patrols the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf to interdict the movement of suspected terrorists from Afghanistan to the Arabian Peninsula.

17. (U) France participates in Operation Active Endeavor in the Eastern Mediterranean. France is also actively involved with the Proliferation Security Initiative. It is also a party to all 12 existing international terrorism conventions and is active in the UN and G8 counterterrorism committees.

18. (U) In 2005, France continued to discover and dismantle terror networks present on its soil, including several that recruited jihadists to Iraq. Following the July 2005 bombings in London, French officials worked closely with their British counterparts. They also identified a number of deficiencies in their counterterrorism capabilities, and proposed legislation to remedy these deficiencies. This fast-tracked legislation became law in late January, 2006. The French government is also expected to issue in February 2006 a "white book" on terrorism that will underscore their belief that terrorism is a primary strategic threat to France, and that dealing with it is consequently a central priority. France consults extensively with the U.S. on terrorism, at the tactical and strategic level.

Africa

19. (U) The French military has shown an increasing interest to cooperate with others, particularly with the

U.S., in Africa. In the past three years, there have been Non-combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) executed in three African countries, NEO planning for four other potential crises, as well as U.S. and French multilateral programs, such as GPOI - ACOTA, RECAM, and joint financial and logistical support for ECOWAS, ECCAS, and the African Union. In the Gulf of Guinea and Trans-Sahel region, France has expressed interest in the U.S. effort to improve the posture of African countries in the fight against terrorism. Both the U.S. and France continue to broadly support capacity building for African militaries. (See paragraphs 12, 32 40, 42-43, 46, 59, 72, 82-86, 89 and 94 for more on French involvement in Africa.)

France, NATO and ESDP

¶10. (SBU) Despite its singular stance on alliance membership (France is not a member of NATO's integrated military command), France has continued to demonstrate willingness to engage in NATO responses to common challenges. France has been a major contributor to operations in the Balkans (SFOR, now EUFOR, and KFOR) and in NATO's operations in Afghanistan (International Security Assistance Force). In KFOR in Kosovo, French troops are the second-largest national contingent, significantly outnumbering U.S. units. In Afghanistan, France has some 900 troops, which will increase to approximately 1400 in August 2006, when France assumes command of the Kabul region of ISAF. During December 2004-August 2005, France held the rotating command of ISAF. France also contributed to NATO Humanitarian Relief Operations in Bagh, Pakistan.

¶11. (SBU) The French have consistently expressed their support for NATO's transformation, and are contributing substantial resources to the NATO Response Force: the French military has identified forces that at initial stages will amount to 40 per cent of ground units, 30 per cent of air assets, and 20 per cent of naval capabilities, and has proposed contributing EUROCORPS to the NRF at a later stage. France has restructured some of its own forces with land, air and sea High Readiness Response force fully compatible with the NATO Response Force. It has offered headquarter slots in Lille for fellow NATO members.

¶12. (SBU) Interest in being part of NATO transformation has not diminished the deep commitment of the GoF to fostering European security and defense arrangements. Many in the GoF envision that transatlantic security relations of the future will increasingly include bilateral U.S.-EU cooperation. Throughout 2004 and 2005, the French vigorously pursued their goal of establishing independent European defense structures and supporting increased EU missions. France supported an EU assistance mission to Darfur in the Sudan, to support the African Union's intervention. France continues to push its EU partners for completion of a separate EU planning headquarters, a small but independent EU operational planning unit, as well as an EU cell at SHAPE. EU operations may also continue to be planned at national headquarters. Additionally, France has been a key player in setting up and funding the European Defense procurement agency (EDA), designed to coordinate defense procurement among EU allies, and which became operational in 2005 with a small staff numbering some 80 persons and a budget of 20 million euros.

¶13. (U) In January 2006, the European gendarmerie force was formally inaugurated in Vicenza, Italy. The concept dates back to October 2003, when French Defense Minister Michele Alliot-Marie proposed the creation of the European gendarmerie consisting of some 800 gendarmes from Spain, Italy, Portugal and the Netherlands to take on police training and other police functions as part of the EU's response to crises.

French Training and Participation in Joint Exercises

¶14. (U) In the European AOR, in cooperation with the US Commander Naval Forces Europe, the French Navy participated in 3 Non-NATO exercises and 6 NATO exercises in 2004 including a Proliferation Security Initiative exercise, a NATO anti-submarine exercise, a Multi-lateral Livex, PFP exercise BALTOPS 04, and a NATO Joint fleet training exercise (a major NRF event sponsored by NATO).

¶15. (U) In 2005, France participated in 6 Non-NATO exercises and 13 NATO exercises. The French Navy participated in RECAM IV, JMC 05-1 and 05-2, a multilateral FTX helping qualify the Italian maritime High Readiness Force (HRF), two multilateral anti-submarine exercises, Trident D'Or (the exercise to qualify the French maritime HRF, a LIVEEX Mine Warfare Exercise in the North Sea, FRUKUS (CPX/FTX with French, Russian, U.S., and U.K. navy participation, Sorbet Royale (a LIVEEX Submarine Rescue

Exercise), Bright Star (a multi-national, multi-warfare LIVEX executing in Egypt), Loyal Midas (a multilateral FTX to qualify a stand-by Maritime Component Commander for a future NRF rotation.

¶16. (U) Overall objectives for Navy training in 2005 were: 100 days at sea per ship, 13 exercises, four of which were Amphibious exercises, three of which were mine warfare exercises, two deployments of the Charles de Gaulle CVBG, participation in one major NATO exercise, participation in one major EU exercise and five Joint exercises.

¶17. (U) The French air force continues to seek opportunities to exercise and train with the US. During 2005, the French air force participated in Exercise Bright Star in Egypt, and Exercise Air Warrior in the US. France also continues to offer the US opportunities to use their training ranges and training airspace associated with Corsica in the Mediterranean Sea.

French Support for Space Launch Activities

¶18. (U) France supported multiple space launch activities from their facilities in the Pacific, the Indian Ocean, and the south of France. The French government approved a US request to use the islands of Reunion and Nuka Hiva for telemetry tracking missions supporting NASA space launches. Additionally, the French support US space shuttle launches with access to the French Air Base in Istres France as an alternate shuttle landing site.

Defense Trade and Industrial Cooperation

¶19. (U) Source priorities in order of importance for French defense acquisition remain France, EU, and all others (to include the U.S.). National pride and limited budgets govern this order. The French defense industry continues to provide the greatest depth and breadth of any western European country. While its technology is sometimes peer-level with the U.S., it is actually superior in specific niche areas (e.g., thermal imaging and optics). The single most limiting factor is defense spending.

¶20. (U) In the past year, the French Ministry of Defense continued its pursuit of revitalization of forces. Despite competing government interests, the budget of the Defense Ministry remained untouched (the Interior was the only other ministry spared from budget cuts). Highlights for 2005-2006 spending include: a second aircraft carrier; introduction of the Rafale fighter aircraft; the European Multi-Mission Frigate (FREMM); Network-Centric command and control systems; Tigre and NH-90 helicopters; transport aircraft; third and fourth strategic missile submarines; and cruise missile development. Only minor increases in research and development, as compared to previous years, were approved.

¶21. (U) Foreign Military Sales from the US increased from FY03 to FY04 (USD 45.6M to USD 66.9M), while direct commercial sales decreased (USD 18.9M to USD 12.7M.) Pending US sales include the Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment (ALRE) for the second French aircraft carrier, and a cruise missile simulator. FMS training funds were expended as in previous years, with the majority centered on carrier aviation training and support.

¶22. (U) Service-specific Data Exchange Agreements (DEAs) remained essentially stable, yet significantly, renegotiation of four Navy DEAs was concluded, extending their expiration dates to 2010. Discussions continue regarding remaining DEAs and four newly proposed agreements. Foreign Comparative Testing programs continue to show interest in French technologies, with recent focus on underwater GPS, perimeter defense, shipboard self-defense, and bomb casing design. Benchmarking studies have been conducted on ship design and manpower reduction.

¶23. (U) U.S. defense acquisition and sales interests in France are significant and include (by service): for the Air Force, C-130J, KC-130J, C-17 sales and French AWACS upgrade; for the Army and USMC, Sophie, 120mm rifled mortars, Active Protection System armor for ground vehicles, and hybrid electric vehicles; for the Navy, ALRE sale, unmanned submerged/underwater vehicles, and maritime domain awareness, and network-centric enabled operations. All services are focused on any technology that can assist in the efforts of the IED Task Force.

¶24. (U) Privatization of the defense sector has continued, albeit at a slow pace. Although the GoF still maintains so-called "golden shares" in several firms, globalization has eroded their total control in this arena. For example, the recently privatized shipbuilding firm DCN has again

partnered with Thales in planning the second French aircraft carrier, and was recently awarded a contract by the French Navy for total lifetime maintenance support for their fleet warships and major combat systems.

¶25. (U) The anticipated absorption of OCCAR (the Organization for Joint Armament Cooperation) into the European Defense Agency has stalled, although OCCAR did play a role in guiding the French and Italian defense ministries to select the General Electric engines for the European Multi-Mission Frigate (FREMM) in late 2005.

¶26. (U) The EU's European Capabilities Action Plan (ECAP) goal is to coordinate financing processes and to get European defense industry involved in identifying and filling gaps. There is also a recent effort to engage university research labs through funding made available from private industries. Further privatization and increased competitiveness of the French defense sector should support these trends.

¶27. (U) Tangential but significant issues to defense cooperation include continued pursuit of a Declaration of Principles (DoP) on armaments and end-use controls required by the U.S. on jointly produced systems, which prevent French sales to third parties without USG approval (viewed with concern by French government and private industry alike though France requires similar guarantees from their customers for French products). On the other hand, U.S. Presidential intervention in rejecting the so-called "buy American" provisions in the recent U.S. defense bill was well received.

¶28. (U) Recent overtures on the part of both the U.S. and French governments have led to an increase in official bilateral defense discussions and activity. The impending change of government in 2007 will have a significant impact on whether or not this trend continues. While France's 2005 vote against the EU referendum was seen as a setback to both the French government and to the EU's future, its full effect remains to be seen. As noted above, there are signs of consolidation of efforts among EU institutions, specifically in the defense arena. Economic realities and collective resolve should eventually determine whether these trends continue.

The Future of French Defense Spending

¶29. (U) Future French Defense budgets must conform to a new inter-governmental finance law known by the acronym LOLF (Organic Law of the Finance Law). In this new framework, the funding made available to the Ministry of Defense abandons the traditional budget distributions by 'Titles' and instead is presented as 'missions and programs'. The most significant of these is the mission to 'Put into action the National Defense Policy'. Two of its supporting programs are 'Prepare the Force' and 'Equip the Force'. In all, the Defense Ministry budget will be organized around four missions and nine supporting programs. In an effort to improve the coherence of the defense budget, the LOLF ties budgetary allocations to performance. Also, for the first budget cycle under this new system, the Chiefs of Staff of the services have less influence on service budgets. Their role is now to assure the coherence of the budget rather than the direction of it. In a May 21, 2005 Presidential decree, the Chiefs of the Armed Services are now subordinate to the Chief of Defense (CHOD). The CHOD now controls all budgets and procurement financing. Service budgets now must pass through the CHOD before they go to the Minister's office for approval. (For more information on defense spending and the LOLF see paragraphs 111-113.)

¶30. (U) The 2006 defense budget represents a 2.2% increase over the 2005 fiscal year. In spite of the Defense Minister's ability to protect the defense budget from cuts, there continue to be difficulties for the French military in the future. These difficulties stem primarily from three areas: first, the inflationary pressures of the price of energy; second, cost overruns/delays in procurement; and third, increased maintenance costs. Most of the planning for the current five-year budget requests was predicated on the cost of a barrel of oil at half the current price. This increase will translate into fewer flying hours, fewer training days, and fewer days at sea in the next few years. Procurement of several current military systems is behind the original schedule or experiencing technical problems. These delays include the Tigre helicopter, Rafale fighter aircraft, A-400M transport aircraft, and the new command ship (BPC). The final expense increase will be the result of maintaining the older systems in the French military until sufficient numbers can replace them.

131. (U) In spite of not being part of the integrated military command structure of NATO, in January, 2004 France received two general officer billets within the command: one at Atlantic Command Operations (SHAPE) and one at Atlantic Command Transformation (Norfolk). The French have assigned 110 military personnel to the two headquarters, representing 2.04% of overall NATO staff posts. The French have also agreed to increase their contribution to Alliance military budgets from 4.9% to 7.4%. Nonetheless, despite disclaimers to the contrary, the French have given mixed signals over the past two years on their vision of the future NATO. These views have ranged from a desire for closer integration with NATO to generally limiting the scope of NATO's operations or in favor of an EU defense force.

132. (U) France has been a leading proponent to advance a "battle-group" concept to create rotational 1500-man size forces for use in Chapter VII mandates by the European Union. Based on the EU Operation ARTEMIS model (the French led deployment to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2003) the force would be capable of responding to a crisis within 15 days and be sustainable for 30 days minimum, 120 days maximum. Full operational capability is scheduled for 2007. The French insist that these battle groups would be compatible with NATO NRF rotations, with either taking the lead on the basis of a mutually-agreed decision. Africa has been mentioned as a primary venue for the battle-groups.

133. (U) The French Army is investing in UAVs, the Improved Infantry Armored Vehicle (VBCI), advanced communications equipment, counter-fire radars, and lighter equipment for armored units. They are beginning the process of digitization of the Army's battlefield systems and purchasing an individual soldier system - the Felin, the French Army's equivalent to the U.S. Army's Land Warrior system. These initiatives will enhance French abilities to interoperate with US forces and systems.

134. (U) The French Navy has stood up and qualified the HRF (M) headquarters staff, the naval component headquarters of France's NRF, in Toulon in 2004 and 2005. This force will deploy to the Gulf of Oman and Indian Ocean in 2006. Additionally, the Admiral, Naval Action Force (ALFAN) in Toulon has continued to develop over 2004 and 2005. This command is now roughly equivalent to the U.S. Fleet Forces Command and has responsibilities for training, certifying, and equipping French naval forces. In an effort to improve intelligence support to the French Navy, the French stood up a French intelligence command called Centre de Renseignement Maritime (CRMar).

135. (U) In the context of trying to become more efficient and capable of joint and international operations, the French Air Force is in the process of a major reorganization. In November 2003, a project team of senior staff officers, outgoing base commanders and civilian consultants was created and given the mission to develop a plan to create a better Air Force. The project team started its work in September 2004 and unveiled the plan in October 2005. The ideas will be progressively implemented beginning in 2006. This ambitious reorganization project, named Air 2010, aims in particular at removing duplication and creating synergy. It will serve to optimize the air base network while preserving existing capabilities. In summary, the Air Force will replace the twelve current commands with four large functional 'poles.' The Operations Pole will be in charge of current operations in France and abroad. The Forces pole will be charged with leading the preparation and training of the whole of the combat forces. The Support Pole will bring together within the same staff all the maintenance, logistics, and life support. The Personnel Pole will join together all the personnel training and staff management functions.

136. (U) The French military is actively exploring ways to increase interoperability with the U.S. with respect to the global information grid and uses of information on the modern battlefield. As of late 2005, the French MOD has directed increased contact between French military officials and U.S. military officials in an effort to ensure the French capability to interoperate with the U.S. is maintained and improved. This French initiative is aimed at keeping up with the U.S. lead in information technology, particularly targeting data and friendly force tracking. The French desperately want to preserve the ability to conduct combat operations with the U.S. in every domain air, land, and sea.

137. (U) The French continue to show their support for operations in Afghanistan. In 2006, they are planning to augment their forces to support the increased responsibilities of the Kabul regional command in addition to the military assets already in place in support of ISAF and OEF (see paragraphs 53-56 for more detail). Furthermore, the French continue to be actively involved in the fight against terrorism through the OEF Task Force 150 and in the US Counter-Drug effort (see paragraphs 59-60 for more detail.)

138. (U) The French Army has been training the Afghan National Army within the overall U.S.-led program since its inception and the French have consistently expressed a desire to be part of NATO's transformation and interoperability initiatives as evidenced by their significant national contributions to the NATO Response Force (NRF) (see paragraphs 66-67 for more detail).

139. (U) In the Balkans, French forces remain among the largest contributors to operations in Kosovo and French participation in the former NATO SFOR mission in Bosnia continued under the EU Force, Operation Althea. The French continue to maintain a small French military presence in Macedonia. They also provide a small presence force in Georgia. (See paragraphs 70-71 for more detail).

140. (U) In Africa, France has provided 80 million euros to Darfur through the African Union and provides support to Chad on a bilateral basis. The French transported the Senegalese units of the AU force to Sudan and the Nigerian police contingent. (See paragraph 72 for more detail).

141. (U) In response to natural disasters in 2004 and 2005 France contributed substantially to Pakistan Earthquake relief efforts, the South Asian Tsunami relief efforts, and relief efforts after hurricane Katrina hit the southern United States. (See paragraphs 73-81 for more detail).

142. (U) The major part of France's efforts at capacity building in the world is focused on Africa where France relies on its forces stationed in seven nations to conduct most of its capacity building operations (see paragraphs 82-85 for more detail). Also, 4000 French troops stand alongside UNOCI in Operation Licorne in Cote d'Ivoire in support of the UN operation, in addition to the French permanent base in Abidjan.

143. (U) French Gendarmerie has taken the lead in the development of the European Gendarmerie Force. French Gendarmes are also deployed in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Haiti (MINUSTAH), Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, and the Central Africa Republic. They also conducted training in Kinshasa, Kenya (see paragraphs 86-89 for more detail).

144. (U) In the summer of 2004, the French also began a joint fighter pilot training school in Cazeaux, France (see paragraph 90 for more detail).

145. (U) As a nuclear state, France endorses deterrence theory and holds to long-standing NATO doctrines. It has consistently supported international arms control regimes as a means of bolstering stability and transparency. In addition to its continued support for international mechanisms to limit proliferation, France with their British and German colleagues pursued EU3 negotiations to obtain Iranian compliance with Iran's Safeguard Agreement commitments. EU3 efforts led to the signing of the Paris Agreement in November 2004. Iranian resumption of conversion in August 2005, and research on enrichment in December 2005, led to suspension of Paris Agreement discussions. France and its EU partners, with U.S. support, continue to pursue efforts to convince Iran to suspend its nuclear ambitions. (See paragraphs 91-93 for more detail).

146. (U) The French military continues to maintain strong contacts with the U.S. and other NATO countries for contingency planning. During 2004 and 2005, France conducted planning and exchanges with EUCOM and CENTCOM. French and U.S. analysts and planners share information on terrorism and WMD proliferation as well as political-military developments. From the beginning of operations in Afghanistan (both OEF and ISAF), and the Lebanon crisis, French and U.S. planners have continued to work together to produce effective, timely results. French forces permanently or temporarily stationed in Africa and Central Asia have assisted U.S. operations in the EUCOM and CENTCOM theater of operations.

147. (U) No direct cost sharing activities occur in France

148. (U) No indirect cost-sharing activities as described in Ref A paragraph 11 occur in France. However the U.S. did receive several types of miscellaneous indirect cost-sharing benefits from France as described below.

Overflight Clearances, Port Access, Use of French Facilities

149. (U) In 2004, France granted overflight and landing clearances to 1842 USG missions. 977 of these missions were in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. 76 of these missions supported operations in the Balkans. During 2005, France granted 2061 overflight and landing clearances to USG missions. 811 of these missions supported OIF while 68 supported Balkan operations. France continued to grant blanket overflight clearances to most USG missions allowing over flights of and landings in France without notice.

150. (U) The 744 Expeditionary Air Base Group operated three KC-135 tanker aircraft from Istres Airbase in southern France during most of 2004. This group of 100 US military personnel flew air refueling missions supporting operations in the Balkans. The French provided fuel tax-free. The mission ended in December 2004.

151. (U) Tax concessions on fuel and landing fees for non-operational missions during 2004 totaled approximately 4000 dollars. During 2005 these concessions totaled 8450 dollars.

152. (U) During 2004 the US Navy made 14 port calls to facilities in metropolitan France. In 2005 the number of port calls was 29. In all cases, the French Navy provided excellent support and force protection services without cost. Additionally, no taxes were imposed for supplies or parts for US ships visiting French ports.

REF A PARA 12 RECENT CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, HUMANITARIAN RELIEF OPERATIONS, CAPACITY BUILDING, COUNTERPROLIFERATION, AND NUCLEAR THREAT REDUCTION

Subparagraph A: Recent Contingency operations (See French Force Disposition and External Operations Table for personnel numbers)

153. (U) The French were among the first nations to volunteer troops to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission in Afghanistan and France continues to be responsible for Kabul International Airport and the area north of Kabul to the U.S. base at Bagram. A French battalion has been a part of ISAF since December 2001. From August 2004 to February 2005, a French general commanded the NATO-led ISAF. France has proposed an increased role in ISAF and offered to lead Regional Command-Kabul as part of the NATO reorganization and expansion of ISAF. In October 2005, France and Turkey announced that they would co-lead Regional Command-Kabul. The French are planning to augment their forces from the current 700 in ISAF to between 1,000 1,200 personnel to support the increased responsibilities of the regional command to include providing a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) battalion. The French have continued to provide a military police detachment in support of ISAF.

154. (U) Supporting OEF, the French Armed Forces continue to be actively involved in the fight against terrorism. 200 members of the French Special Forces are currently deployed in the South of Afghanistan alongside U.S. Special Forces in military operations against the Taliban.

155. (U) France assigned liaison officers to the U.S. staff headquarters in Tampa to ensure the interface between the military authorities of the two countries. French forces were directly involved in the fight against terrorism by

Y
carrying out the following missions:

156. (U) The air and sea group took part in air operations above Afghanistan in April-May 2004 (84 aircrafts were involved in operational missions for 450 flight hours). The French Air Force deployed within less than 48 hours six Mirage 2000D and two refueling aircraft from metropolitan France to the deployable airbase in Manas (Kyrgyzstan) which played a key role in the prosecution of air campaigns.

157. (U) In addition, two C160 airplanes with 130 soldiers of the Air Force have been operating in Dushanbe (Tajikistan) since December 3, 2001, totaling 10,000 flight hours. This detachment is focused on airlifting the French Forces operating in different areas in Afghanistan.

158. (U) In October 2004, three Mirage F1CR and one tanker C135FR were deployed in Dushanbe to carry out tactical reconnaissance missions for ISAF and the coalition against terrorism. To help promote the development of democracy in Afghanistan in close collaboration with its allies, the French Air Force again deployed an air detachment in Dushanbe, from August through November 2005 during the parliamentary elections. Within ISAF, the detachment, which includes three Mirage F1CR, three Mirage 2000D and two tankers C135FR based in Manas, was intended to establish an air presence throughout the country and support ground forces operations to deter any action likely to disrupt the elections. It was also entrusted with the mission to undertake reconnaissance and fire support operations supporting OEF.

159. Finally, the French military participates in the fight against terrorism within the OEF Task Force 150 (TF 150). The Task Force is actively involved in the following operations:

- monitoring air and sea movements in the Red Sea, the Sea of Oman, the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf,
- prohibiting the filtration of terrorists to the Arabian Peninsula or the Horn of Africa,
- fighting against illegal trafficking (weapons, drugs etc.),
- fighting against piracy and banditry acts.

160. (U) Since February 2003, a EUROMARFOR task group is part of the TF 150 and operates under the command of the U.S. staff. The French Navy greatly contributes to the TF 150 (about a quarter of the Task Force) with three ships operating on a permanent basis. France took command of TF 150 twice from September 2003 to January 2004 and from June to September 2004.

161. (U) An aircraft based in Djibouti, which was incorporated into the Task Force 57 (TF 57), is intended to patrol in coordination with the TF 150 ships. The 62 French ships involved in Operation Enduring Freedom since 15 December 2001 totaled more than 6,000 days at sea.

162. (U) The French Navy's strong participation in CTF-150, both by continuously providing ships and often providing a command staff in the Indian Ocean, particularly off of Somalia and the Gulf of Oman, and the presence of French Navy liaison personnel at NAVCENT Headquarters in Bahrain makes possible a good degree of interaction and cooperation in this key region. The French also maintain maritime patrol aircraft worldwide and cooperate with the U.S. Navy where there is common interest.

163. (U) The French also participate in the US Counter-Drug effort with Naval Forces. A French military officer is assigned to the Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF South) in Key West, to ensure coordination with French forces in the Caribbean. Fort-de-France in Martinique supports U.S. Navy and Coast Guard units with port visits and the Navy Command in Fort-de-France has assisted the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard with the movement of personnel and weapons between various ships and aircraft. The direct participation of the French Navy in counter-drug operations consists of the deployment of frigates to the region to work with U.S. forces on a regular basis and the use of Maritime Patrol Aircraft deployed to the region.

164. (U) In 2004, the French Navy stopped three drug trafficking ships in the Antilles and one Togolese ship in the Gulf of Guinea with 450 kg of cocaine. The counter drug effort of the French Navy in 2004 was 199 days at sea, 156 hours of flight, 2058 ships queried, four ships intercepted, and 1020 kg of drugs seized.

165. (U) In 2004, the French Navy effort against clandestine immigration equaled 683 days at sea, 904 flight hours, three ships intercepted, 43 clandestine immigrants turned over to border police.

Subparagraph B. Military Assistance:
NRF/NTMI/Afghanistan/NATO PKO.

166. (U) The French Army has been training the Afghan National Army within the overall U.S.-led program since its inception. Since 2002, the French have trained more than 2,000 Afghans. This includes three of the initial battalions; they have set-up the officer basic course and the staff officer's course. The French are currently participating in the Embedded Training Team concept with French Army soldiers assigned to mentor an Afghan battalion in Kandahar.

167. (U) The French have consistently expressed a desire to be part of NATO's transformation and interoperability initiatives as evidenced by their significant national contributions to the NATO Response Force (NRF). By participating in NRFs 1 through 6, the total French military contribution equals up to 40 percent of ground units, 30 percent of air assets, and 20 percent of naval capabilities. The French air force provides the deployable combined air operations center (CAOC) for the European led NRF. In January 2005, the French air force conducted AIREX 2005, a training exercise, to prepare for command of NRF-05 in July. On July 1st, the French air force became the Joint Forces Air Component Commander (JFACC) of NRF-05 for six months. In 2004, NATO sent the NRF's Land Component Command Headquarters, the French led EUROCORPS, to lead the ISAF in Afghanistan. As part of NRF 5, NATO activated France's Joint Forces Air Component Commander (JFACC) to coordinate the air movements for the Pakistan earthquake relief effort. On 1 October 2005, the French formally created a multinational headquarters to serve as the Land Component Command for future rotations of the NRF.

168. (U) In 2005, the French also established a Maritime Component Command HQ to serve in future iterations of NATO's NRF. The French Navy successfully stood-up the High-Readiness Force Maritime (HRF-M) staff in Toulon and qualified the staff during an at-sea exercise in 2005. This staff, will serve its rotational duties as an on-call force, ahead of schedule, and is being used by the French for out-of-area operations, for example, during the upcoming Arabian Sea/Indian Ocean deployment of the Charles de Gaulle Carrier Battle Group in early 2006. There is one U.S. Naval Officer assigned to the HRF-M staff.

169. (U) The French government has forbidden its military from contributing troops to the NATO training mission inside Iraq (NTM-1). One French officer is working on the training mission staff at SHAPE Headquarters in Belgium, and the GoF pledged 660,000 euros in February 2005 to help finance NTM-1. In 2005, the GoF took initial steps to contribute to the development of Iraqi defense and security capabilities. Under the European Union's EUJUSTLEX program, France has pledged to train 200 Iraqi police officials and judges in rule of law training in France, making France the top EU contributor to this program. Approximately 40 Iraqi police officials (non-military) completed month-long training at the Ecole Nationale Superieure des Officiers de Police and the Ecole Nationale de Police in 2005. A third course started at the end of 2005 for judicial instruction at the Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature. At the same time, a French offer to train up to 1,500 Iraqi paramilitary police (gendarmes) outside Iraq remains unimplemented, although an Iraqi Ministry of Interior delegation visited France in July 2005 to further discuss the proposal. Currently there is a single Gendarme Officer in Iraq, responsible for provision of security for French embassy staff in Baghdad.

170. (U) In the Balkans, French forces remain among the largest contributors to operations in Kosovo. French participation in the former NATO SFOR mission in Bosnia continued under the EU Force, Operation Althea. 210 Gendarmes supported both the United Nations Interim mission in Kosovo and the NATO Intervention Forces in Kosovo. French Lieutenant General de Kermabon transferred authority as COMKFOR on 1 September 2005 after one year of command, the second time France has commanded KFOR. The French government provided approximately 60 gendarmes, including 20 officers to help combat organized crime under the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia-Hersegovina. Additionally, they provided European Union Police and military police in support of European Union Forces in Bosnia.

171. (U) The French continue to maintain a small French military presence (15 personnel) in Macedonia providing international police in support of the European Police Mission. They also provide a small presence force (three military observers) in Georgia to help support the U.N. monitoring mission.

172. (U) Regarding peacekeeping efforts in Africa, there has been ongoing debate as to NATO's role in Africa. This debate was most evident during the 2005 crisis in Darfur with France focusing its support for the AU through the EU. France, however, honored its pledge to SECSTATE that it would not oppose a NATO role in the crisis. France has provided 80 million euros to Darfur through the African Union and provides support to Chad on a bilateral basis. French troops and aircraft are conducting ground and air border security. During 2005, France provided refueling support to NATO and EU aircraft at Abech in Eastern Chad, as well as personnel recovery capabilities using three C-160 transport aircraft and three Puma helicopters. The French transported the Senegalese units of the AU force to Sudan and the Nigerian police contingent.

Subpara C: Humanitarian Relief Operations
NATOHMRO/Pakistan/Katrina/Tsunami

173. (U) In 2003, France allotted 9.3 million euros (USD 11.2 million) to what it termed Emergency Humanitarian Assistance, all of which was channeled through the Emergency Humanitarian Aid Fund of the MFA. In 2004, the initial allotment was 9.3 million euros (USD 11.2 million). The fund may be increased on an extraordinary basis to finance unexpected operations; this was the case in 2005, when France announced an emergency increased allotment of 2.8 million euros (USD 3.4 million) in favor of the victims of natural disasters or civil crises, primarily focused on the victims of the tsunami in Thailand, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Indonesia, and India, and an additional allocation of 5.6 million euros (USD 6.7 million) for the victims of the earthquake in Pakistan (see paragraphs below). The additional aid is imputed into the 2005 balance sheet bringing the total amount of emergency donations to 16,147,081 million euros. Allotments in 2006 are projected to increase to benefit victims of 2005's Hurricane Katrina in the United States. For an economic analysis of general Grant Aid and Humanitarian Assistance see paragraphs 117-221.

174. (U) Pakistan Relief. The French contributed 82 military personnel to the Pakistan relief effort. In addition, the French air force deployed two C-130 Hercules military transport aircraft to deliver relief supplies. The effort included medical service personnel, a surgical team, and support personnel (communications, equipment, and logistics) in Pakistan. Forty-six of the military personnel were inserted into the various NATO elements in Islamabad, Lisbon, Germany, and Turkey. Additionally, as part of NRF 5, NATO activated France's JFACC to coordinate the air movement piece of the relief effort. The JFACC at Taverney, near Paris has 23 French, five UK, and one U.S. officer assigned.

175. (U) KATRINA Relief. The NRF was activated in September 2005 after hurricane Katrina. At the same time, France used its Joint Forces Air Component (JFACC) to task the French Air Force to collect and deliver the 150 tons of European supplies for Louisiana. This support was delivered to Ramstein airbase, Germany. The French air force also provided two transport aircraft to move over four tons of supplies, including tents, tarps, and 1000 rations, to the US from the Caribbean. Along with these supplies, the French provided a team of four civil security personnel to help assess future U.S. needs and distribute assistance. Two French liaison officers were posted to the Joint Forces Commander in Lisbon to help coordinate all European assistance. An Airbus Beluga aircraft also delivered 12.7 tons of emergency equipment to Mobile, Alabama;

176. (U) The French Navy deployed a team of 17 Navy divers to assist with the Katrina disaster. This was facilitated by the fact that the French maintain a liaison officer with the U.S. Mine Warfare Command in Corpus Christi, Texas. The 17 French divers worked from September 11, 2005 to October 8, 2005 helping to clear waterways of debris and recover vessels.

177. (U) The GOF also offered the following contributions to assist with Katrina disaster recovery:
--The "Gendarmerie nationale" offered experts in forensic police;
--The GOF (with Airbus) offered to send an additional 20-30,000 food rations.

178. (U) Tsunami Relief. The French Navy worked with U.S. forces and other willing partners following the December 26, 2004 Tsunami in South East Asia. In response to this disaster, the French Navy re-routed its helicopter carrier, Jeanne D'Arc, and, after picking up extra emergency supplies from the French base in Djibouti, sent the units

into the disaster region. By February 1, there were 1,390 French Military personnel assisting in the disaster area, most aboard the three ships involved. The French Helicopter Carrier, Jeanne D'Arc, and the Destroyer George Leygues DD-644 deployed to Indonesia on January 4 until February 9 while the Destroyer Dupleix DD-641 deployed to the Maldives from January 5 until February 1, 2005. The Jeanne D'Arc supplemented the normal on-board complement of helicopters with an additional two heavy-lift helicopters. Embarked were 12 medical doctors and support personnel.

179. (U) There was one French Maritime Patrol Aircraft deployed to Thailand from January 1, 2005 that worked in cooperation with the U.S. Navy P-3 aircraft. One additional French Maritime Patrol Aircraft deployed to Sri Lanka from December 30, 2004 to January 1, 2005.

180. (U) In support of the tsunami relief in South-East Asia, the French Gendarmerie provided several investigators to assist in the identification of victims.

181. (U) Other humanitarian efforts. In 2004, during the annual Jeanne D'Arc training cruise 9000 vaccinations were given, 519 tons of humanitarian supplies were delivered. During a deployment of the Dupleix, 180 tons of humanitarian supplies were delivered.

Subparagraph D. Capacity Building: Strengthening Governance in the World.

182. (U) The major part of France's efforts at capacity building in the world is focused on Africa. France relies on its forces stationed in seven nations to conduct most of its capacity building operations. These include Cameroon, Togo, the Central African Republic, the Gulf of Guinea, Haiti, and Cote d'Ivoire. Additionally, France uses forward presence forces; those stationed through bilateral defense agreements, for capacity building operations. Foreign presence forces are in Gabon, Djibouti, Senegal, the Indian Ocean, and the Pacific Ocean. The table on French Force Disposition and Exterior Operations presents the detailed numbers of personnel in each location and the additional expenditures of each operation. In total, these capacity building measures cost France 650 million Euros in 2004 (approximately USD 790 million).

183. (U) The RECAM (Reinforcing the Capabilities of Africans to Maintain Peace) program remains France's flagship strategy for defense and military cooperation in Africa. The goal of RECAM is to support an autonomous African security capability. It is also a multinational program to support the stability of Africa. RECAM is based on three pillars: cooperation, training, and support of African operational engagements. To support operations, France provides African forces with the materials and equipment necessary to deploy from three French battalion-size RECAM depots. These depots are located in Dakar, Libreville, and Djibouti. France has offered to make these depots available for USG use. The French Military Cooperation Directorate has a 100 million Euro annual budget and manages a network of 220 French military personnel located at African military schools and training centers.

184. (U) In the last cycle for RECAM IV in West Africa (Benin) in 2004 -2005, there were 14 African and 16 non-African participating states, including the United States. France seeks the participation of all African states in RECAM and solicits participation bilaterally and through the African Union and sub-regional organizations. France also seeks multinational participation in the form of donor states and an increasing role of the European Union (EU). The program's present orientation focuses at the strategic-level and seeks to prepare the African sub-regional organizations and eventually the African Standby Forces (ASF) for peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief operations.

185. (U) Additional Capacity Building Examples: During 2005 in Chad, more than 300 French air force aviators conducted security and reconnaissance missions within the framework of the humanitarian operation Darfur.

186. (U) French Gendarmerie has taken the lead in the development of the European Gendarmerie Force. The initial commander of the force in the development of the headquarters is a French Gendarme General and the first headquarters exercise was conducted in France. The Gendarmerie has been consistently been asked to provide general and specialized training to other Gendarme forces or police forces throughout the world and particularly in the middle east and Africa. In fact, one French military police detachment is deployed in support of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)

187. (U) In Haiti, 40 Gendarme personnel supported the Multinational Stabilization Force (MINUSTAH) as part of the 1,000-man contingent of French personnel.

88 (U) Over 150 Gendarme personnel provided international police support for the United Nations Mission to Cote D'Ivoire (UNOCI) and to support French intervention during operation Licorne. This contingent helped protect and guard functions for diplomatic and disarmament missions of the Joint Tactics Group.

189. (U) In both 2004 and 2005 French Gendarmerie supported International Police Missions with detachments of officers and Gendarmes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, and the Central Africa Republic. In 2004, French Gendarmes conducted training for the establishment of a European Union Integrated Police Unit in Kinshasa, Kenya. In the years 2004 and 2005 approximately 600 French National Gendarmes were deployed outside France in support of operations or as reinforcements to diplomatic missions. Although the numbers fluctuate between the years, the approximate strengths provided reflect France's general willingness to contribute gendarme personnel and forces in support of international efforts.

190. (U) In the summer of 2004, the French began a joint fighter pilot training school in Cazeaux, France. Spain, Germany, Singapore, Greece, Switzerland and Poland have indicated interest in joining. The French also completed air policing agreements with Spain, Germany, Switzerland, and Italy allowing greater effectiveness of cross border air defense.

Subpara E: Counterproliferation Contributions and other GWOT contributions

191. (U) As a nuclear state, France endorses deterrence theory and holds to long-standing NATO doctrines. It has consistently supported international arms control regimes as a means of bolstering stability and transparency. It worked closely with the U.S. leading up to the 2000 Nonproliferation Treaty review conference, and was actively involved with U.S. experts in preparing for the 2004 prepcom. Although the French remain concerned over cessation of U.S. efforts to achieve ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), French officials have also endorsed the need for updating international strategic doctrine to include protections such as missile defense, as well as deterrence and regulatory measures.

192. (U) France serves effectively as permanent secretariat for the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and participates actively in the Australia Group for the control of chemicals, bio-agents/toxins, and technologies related to CBW, as well as the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) for controlling nuclear-related, dual-use technologies. France strongly supports U.S.-initiated Global Threat Security Initiative efforts, and pursuant to that initiative hosted a major conference in Bordeaux in June 2005 on identifying radiological sources. It has worked closely with the United States on several transfer cases involving French companies under the Proliferation Security Initiative. France has encouraged continued work within the UN Conference on Disarmament (CD) to help develop guidelines for a fissile material cutoff treaty regime, and supports activities of that body with respect to small arms and unexploded ordnance. It coordinates closely with the U.S. on enforcement of the Chemical Weapons Convention at the OPCW in The Hague, and on implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention in Geneva.

193. (SBU) France accepted the U.S.-proposed G8 architecture that would allow more effective use of the forum, as well as better management of ongoing G8 projects including those aimed at reducing stocks of weapons-grade plutonium in Russia. (France also has a bilateral programs aimed at helping Russia destroy CW holdings.) France has supported efforts to single out North Korea and Iran as states of particular concern on the proliferation front. The French support bringing North Korea before the UNSC for its violations of international nonproliferation obligations. The French share U.S. concerns over Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons; and with their British and German colleagues pursued EU3 negotiations to obtain Iranian compliance with Iran's Safeguard Agreement commitments. EU3 efforts led to the signing of the Paris Agreement in November 2004, under which Iran suspended its nuclear conversion and enrichment efforts during ongoing negotiations on Iran's nuclear program. Iranian resumption of conversion in August 2005, and research on enrichment in December 2005, led to suspension of Paris Agreement discussions. France and its EU partners, with U.S.

support, continue to pursue efforts to convince Iran to suspend its nuclear ambitions.

194. (U) The French military continues to maintain strong contacts with the U.S. and other NATO countries for contingency planning. During 2004 and 2005, France conducted planning and exchanges with EUCOM and CENTCOM. French and U.S. analysts and planners share information on terrorism and WMD proliferation as well as political-military developments. From the beginning of operations in Afghanistan (both OEF and ISAF), and the Lebanon crisis, French and U.S. planners have continued to work together to produce effective, timely results. French forces permanently or temporarily stationed in Africa and Central Asia have assisted U.S. operations in the EUCOM and CENTCOM theater of operations.

195. (U) The French government also provides overflight clearance and landing assistance to US counter-narcotic operations in the SOUTHCOM theater of operations. France maintains a liaison officer with the Joint Interagency Task ForceSouth, and provides access to French overseas territories for U.S. counter-narcotic operations.

196. (U) Since July 1, 2005 the French Armed Forces have an entirely deployable NBC defense regiment (2nd Dragoon regiment), which is equipped with specific tools to combat radiation, nuclear, biological and chemical risks. This regiment's missions are to prevent and handle military or technological incidents as well as restore the operational capacities of the forces deployed.

REF A PARA 13:
PFP AND NATO ENLARGEMENT

197. (U) Since the inauguration of the Partnership for Peace (PfP) in 1994, France has supported the program and participated in its exercises. France believes that PfP has increased awareness of NATO policies, procedures and standards among both aspirants and nonmembers that do not seek membership but that nevertheless wish to participate in collective security arrangements. France believes that the involvement of Central Asian and Caucasus states in PfP has directly increased their willingness to assist in the war on terrorism. France was an early supporter of the broad-based invitation list accepted at the Prague Summit. France favors continued MAP-related assistance to Macedonia, Albania, and Croatia, and essentially shares U.S. perspectives on eventual PfP membership for Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia-Montenegro. France favors extending PfP-like benefits to states in the current Mediterranean Dialogue.

GENERAL DATA ON THE FRENCH MILITARY

198. (U) French Force Dispositions and External Operations:
As of December

LOCATION/20042005TYPE2004
OPERATIONPer #Per #Mission Cost/M
Euros
Haiti/MINUSTAH 42 42CBNa
Gulf Guinea/CORYMBE 103 230CB 6.23
Cote d'Ivoire/LICORNE54554166CB186.0
Cameroon 50 49CB 2.99
Togo/Gabon/LICORNE 268 99CBNa
CAR/BOALI/FOMUC 213 217CB 7.7
Chad10661086CBNa
Macedonia/ARYM 27 17IM 4.56
Bosnia/EUFOR/EUPM 598 476IM 67.9
Kosovo/KFOR/MINUK32672239IM146.5
Georgia/MONUG 3 3IMNa
Lebanon/Israel/UN 209 200IMNa
Palestine 0 3IMNa
Sinai/FMO 15 15IMNa
Afghan/OEF/ISAF12701047IM 99.3
Afghan/BAHRAL 0 49IMNa
OEF/CJTF150 +HOA 290 681IMNa
BERYX 0 10IMNa
0 1047 IM 99.3
Afghan/BAHRAL 0 49 IM Na
OEF/CJTF150 +HOA 290 681 IM Na
BERYX 0 10 IM Na
Ethiopia/MINUEE 1 1IM .1
Sudan-Darfur/DORCA 4 9IMNa
Burundi/MONUC 3 1IMNa
DROC/MONUC 17 16IM 2.3

Liberia/UNMIL 2 1IMNa
IW. Sahara/MINURSO 25 24IM 1.2
Pacific Ocean 182 176FPNa
Senegal11071226FPNa
Djibouti28732831FPNa
Gabon 648 722FPNa
Indian Ocean 390 466FPNa
French Guiana32573353SFNa
Antilles42014202SFNa
Reunion-Mayotte39834133SFNa
New Caledonia26542757SFNa
Polynesia25922153SFNa
St Pierre/Miquelon 77 68SFNa

Total34,947 32,798
CB: Capacity Building Forces
IM: International Mandate Forces
FP: Forward Presence Forces
SF: Sovereignty Forces

Army: Major Equipment Deliveries 2004-2005

Intelligence:
-18 UAV
Command and Control:
-60 2nd Generation Tactical and Intelligence Systems
Aviation:
-10 Tiger Helicopters
Armored Vehicle Systems:
-60 LECLERC Tanks
-8 Tank Recovery vehicles
-32 AMX 10RC Armored Personnel Carrier upgraded
ems:
-60 LECLERC Tanks
-8 Tank Recovery vehicles
-32 AMX 10RC Armored Personnel Carrier upgraded
-660 VAB Wheeled Armored Personnel Vehicles
-130 VB2L Command and Control Vehicles
Artillery and Counter-Fire Systems:
-38 canons 155mm AUF 1 TA
-6 radars COBRA
-5 systems ATLAS
Transportation:
-1,000 GBC 180 Trucks

Navy: Major Equipment Deliveries 2004-2005

Intelligence:
-1 Intelligence collection ship
Submarines:
-1 Ballistic missile submarine
Ships:
-4 Minesweepers
-1 Ocean going Tug
-1 Research Vessel
Missiles:
-80 Mica Air to Air
-40 Crotale (marine)
-50 Aster Ground to Air
-20 Scalp-EG Cruise Missile
-50 Torpedoes

Air Force: Major Equipment Deliveries 2004-2005

Aircraft:
-10 Rafale fighter aircraft
-3 UAV's
-1 A-310 Transport
-7 NH-90 helicopters
Missiles:
-150 Mica Air to Air
-50 Scalp-EG Cruise Missiles
-40 AS-30 Laser Missiles
Satellite: -1 Syracuse Military Comm

FRENCH MILITARY PERSONNEL 2004-2005

TYPE	Army	Air Force	Navy
Officer	16,500	6,875	5,100
Enlisted	117,500	52,600	40,100
Civilian	27,500	6,500	9,600
Total	161,500	65,975	54,800

MAJOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

¶199. (U) Please note that the new French presentation of budgetary information (the LOLF, first mentioned in paragraph 29) is sufficiently complicated to compel embassy Paris to include more detail on this new means of reporting economic information (see paragraphs 111-113).

¶100. (U) France is presently the fifth largest industrial economy in the world, with a USD 2 trillion annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP), about one sixth the size of the GDP of the United States in 2005. France is the fifth-largest exporter and the fourth-largest importer in the world merchandise trade, and is a global leader in high technology, defense, agricultural products and services. France is the ninth-largest trading partner of the United States and our third largest in Europe (after Germany and the UK).

Economic Growth

¶101. (U) Real GDP in France rebounded to 2.1% in 2004, compared to 0.9% in 2003, thanks to reviving domestic demand, which turned in one of the best performances in the EU-15. Nonetheless, economic recovery became less robust under the shocks of oil price hikes and the rise in value of the euro against the dollar. The government realized early in 2005 that achieving its 2.5% GDP growth objective would be hard to achieve without taking some action. In February, May, and June 2005, the government announced measures to encourage consumption, stimulate activity of companies, boost exports, and tackle unemployment. Most of these measures are not likely to have immediate impacts. The "No" vote in France's May 29, 2005 referendum on Europe's new constitution was widely interpreted as a sign of French voters' deep-rooted unease with France's economic and social malaise. Public-sector unions' demonstrations against government plans to reduce the size of the government (e.g., cut jobs), as part of France's European commitment to reduce the budget deficit to below 3% of GDP in 2005, fed public fears of outsourcing, enlargement of the European Union, immigration, deregulation of European markets and further deterioration in the labor situation. After the referendum vote, the French government underwent a cabinet shake-up, and in September 2005, the government unveiled its plan for a "social economy", the key feature of which is the retention of the French social model.

¶102. (U) Despite government measures, real GDP growth weakened in 2005, and the government had to revise its GDP growth target from 2.5% to 2.0%, and later shift to a GDP growth target range of 1.5 to 2%. Nonetheless, in January 2006, the government said that it was confident 2005 GDP growth would fall within the 1.5-2.0% range, predicting a 2.0-2.4% (annualized) growth in the fourth quarter. Economists, members of the Consensus Group of 17 banks and institutions, forecast GDP growth to range from 1.8% to 2.1% in 2005. Two thirds of them forecast GDP to increase at least 2% in 2006. That is the bottom of the 2.0-2.5% range the government has forecast for 2006.

Inflation

¶103. (U) Inflation in France remains low and under control, despite oil price increases. Wage increase requests remained moderate in 2004 and 2005 due to the weak labor situation. Consumer prices increased 1.5% in December 2005 on a year-over-year basis, compared with 2.1% in December 2004.

Labor Situation

¶104. (U) The unemployment rate remained unchanged at 10% throughout 2004. Unemployment decreased to 9.6% in November 2005 after peaking at 10.2% in March 2005, a 5-year high. It remained higher than the government objective of 9% for a variety of reasons, including low job creation in the private sector, despite a decrease in persons looking for work and government measures introduced in 2005 for job creation, including government-subsidized contracts. With the 2007 presidential elections in mind, the government has chosen to subsidize job creation, rather than press for economic reforms to address structural causes of unemployment. In January 2006, the government announced the creation of another new employment program aimed at boosting youth employment, since the youth unemployment rate remained high (22.8% in November 2005). Prior to this announcement, private-sector economists had projected the unemployment rate to decrease only slightly

in 2006 due to modest job creation in the private sector.

Budget Deficit, Public Debt and the EU Stability and Growth Pact

¶105. (U) In 2004, France broke the EU stability and growth pact limit with a budget deficit over 3% of GDP for the third straight year. The 2004 overall budget deficit including central government, social security and local authorities exceeded 3.6% of GDP in 2004, falling from 4.2% in 2003 due lower growth in central government spending. The deficit remained above 3% of GDP mainly due to a rise in social security expenditures, notably health insurance. The government has been struggling to reduce the budget deficit in the face of lower-than-expected economic growth. Reducing the budget deficit depends on high tax receipts (thus on solid economic growth), finding ways to check social spending, particularly for health care, and sticking to a "zero budget growth" policy among all ministries, while being mindful of opposition politicians and unions' resistance to reforms.

¶106. (U) In January 2006, Finance Minister Thierry Breton said that the economy's vigor in the second half of 2005, combined with strict control of central government budget spending, made him confident that France would finally respect the 3%-of-GDP ceiling in 2005. Higher than expected tax receipts at year-end 2005, notably due to an earlier collection of the corporate income tax downpayment, allowed the government to project a budget deficit of 2.9% in 2005. Nonetheless, the overall deficit is still overly dependent on progress tackling the public sector health insurance deficit.

¶107. (U) France's public debt continued to significantly exceed the EU's stability and growth pact limit of 60% of GDP, amounting to 64.7% of GDP in 2004, and an estimated 66.2% of GDP in 2005. To fund its debt and repay maturing debt, the government will sell 125 billion euros in notes and bonds in 2006. In 2005, much of the financing of the public debt came from payments by the state-owned company Electricite de France, in exchange for the government assuming pension liabilities. The government will be considering other proposals to reduce the public debt, and is earmarking privatization proceeds for debt reduction.

Reforms

¶108. (U) France has to pursue efforts on structural reforms to achieve its full economic potential and to improve its competitiveness. Prime areas for reform include continued tax and government spending reduction, increased flexibility of labor markets, and further deregulation of goods and services sectors. The government, formed after presidential and legislative elections in spring 2002, has undertaken reforms slowly. President Chirac appears determined to keep electoral promises, such as tax cuts. The French benefited from five per cent income tax cuts in 2002, one percent in 2003, and another three per cent in 2004. However, the government in 2005 had to stop cutting taxes due to its ballooning budget deficit. On the positive side, France has responded to competitive pressures by implementing market-oriented economic reforms of its pension and health insurance systems, simplifying administrative procedures, and offering a variety of investment incentives. France is changing its historic tendency of centralization in favor of transferring more power to its regional territories, to free the territories' energies, to eliminate redundant structures, and to make productivity gains at the national and local levels. In 2005, the government made labor regulations more flexible to facilitate lay-offs, modified the law to make the 35-hour workweek more flexible and created new hiring contracts which limit minimum lay-off procedures for companies of less than 20 employees. Negotiations between businesses and employees representatives begun in December 2005 might result in a reduction of unemployment benefits. The government has indicated its intention to continue reforms: reforming the tax structure, eliminating labor market rigidities, and scaling back the role of the state in the economy. Regarding privatizations, the government announced preliminary plans in 2002, but the subsequent global slump in air transportation and equity markets put a brake in privatizations through the sale of shares. In 2003 and 2004, the government reduced its stakes in large companies such as Air France-KLM (to 44.6 from 54.0 percent), France Telecom (to 42.2 from 54.5 percent), Thales (formerly Thomson CSF, to 31.3 from 33.3 percent), Renault (to 15.6 from 26.0 percent), and Thomson (to 2.0 from 20.8 percent through TSA). Smaller projects were carried out, such as the privatizations of SAPRR (Paris-Rhin-Rhone highway company), and of the electricity company SNET. In 2005, the government sold shares in the energy sector companies

EDF and GDF, retaining a 85.9% stake in EDF and a 79% stake in GDF, but postponed the privatization of the nuclear energy company, Areva. After a long process in 2005, the sale of toll-road companies ASF, APRR and Sanef will be effective in early 2006. Capital openings for employees of Aeroports de Paris and EDF are planned for 2006. The government still has stakes in Bull and Safran (renamed after Sagem merged with Snecma), and in 1,280 other firms, and has stated its intention to continue privatization.

Defense Spending Defense budgets 2006 Highlights

1109. (U) The French central government budget process operates on a different cycle and with different precepts than the U.S. system. Budgets for the year ahead are adopted on or about December 30 of a given calendar year, and may be adjusted one or more times in the course of the year during which spending occurs. The 2004 initial defense budget (E 41.6 billion including pensions or USD 51.7 billion) was adjusted to include additional spending and cancellations. The adjustment cancelled 471 million euros or USD 586 million to credit payments, and allotted 870 million euros or USD 1,082 million to credit payments for military operating spending, including for external operations (608 million euros or USD 756 million). Similarly, the initial 2005 budget was modified, notably allotting 467 million euros (USD 581 million) to credit payments for external operations in 2005.

1110. (U) The following tables trace the evolution of overall defense budgets from 2003 to 2006 in millions of euros. Percentages reflect nominal changes, not/not corrected for inflation. Post provides separate charts for planned and actual expenditures in order to demonstrate that within-year adjustments (use of support funds appropriations), as well as changes in appropriations and in the way they are allocated are the norm for France, and to emphasize that France increased its commitment to defense significantly beginning in 2003. In 2004, defense spending increased 0.25% to 11.42% of the central government budget, and 0.5% to 2.01% of GDP. Based on initial government data, defense spending in 2005 accounted for 14.7% of the central government budget, and 2.5% of GDP.

	Planned	Actual
Defense	per cent.	Defense per cent.
Budgets	change	Spending change
ding	change	
	(INCL. pensions)	(EXCL. Pensions)

(euro millions) (euro millions)

2003 39,9646.130,1763.3

2004 41,5654.031,3283.8

2005 42,4242.1n.a.n.a.

(Note: Military pensions come under the defense budget in the planned budget, but are considered as civilian expenditures when the budget comes to execution.)

Evolution of Defense Budgets

(euro millions)

CY03 CY04 CY05

Title III 17,42617,50417,725
(Operations)
Credit Payments

Title V & VII 13,64414,89815,198
(Procurement
and Debt Service)

Total Credit 31,07032,40232,923
Payments

Title V & VII 15,30016,76915,315
(Program
authorizations)

Pensions 9,8109,91010,062

¶111. (U) Beginning in 2006, the government modified greatly its budget presentation pursuant to the August 1, 2001 Law pertaining to financial bills ("Loi Organique de 2001 Law pertaining to financial bills ("Loi Organique de UNCLASSIFIED

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PROG 02/02/06
DCM:KHOFFMANN
POL:LORDEMAN
POLM/C:JROSENBLATT, POL:GRECINOS, DATT:MGUILLOT,
ECON:KMERTEN, ECON:OVANMAERSSEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO NATO EU COLLECTIVE
JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USNMR SHAPE BE
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA

STATE FOR PM/SNA, EUR/WE; OSD FOR OSD/PA&E, OASD/ISA/EUR,
OASD/ISA/NP, OASD/ISA/AP, OASD/ISA/NESA AND OASD/ISA/BTF

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL MARR MCAP MARR MCAP MARR MCAP FR FR PREL FR PREL
SUBJECT: EMBASSY PARIS SUBMISSION TO THE 2005/2006 REPORT
TO CONGRESS ON ALLIED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMON DEFENSE
REF: A. STATE 223383
 ¶1B. PARIS 000005

This message is sensitive but unclassified. Not for Internet dissemination.

¶1. (U) Summary: This telegram constitutes Embassy Paris's country submission for the 2005/2006 Report to Congress on Allied Contributions to the Common Defense (requested Ref A). We report on developments that took place during calendar years 2004 and 2005 and offer cost sharing information for U.S. fiscal years 2004 and 2005. Embassy's contributions to the Report to Congress are keyed to paragraphs in Ref A where specific information is requested. End Summary.

Ref A Para 8: General Assessment

Overview

¶2. (U) France bears a significant share of the burden of defending international security and stability. It is firmly committed to conflict resolution, non- and counterproliferation, as well as to maintaining adequate conventional and nuclear capabilities. Only a few nations have the military capability to project power to a distant theater and sustain operations. France is one of these nations. It has the military personnel, equipment, and command capabilities as well as the will to employ them throughout the world. It is this total operational capability, and the resolve to act on the international stage, which allows the French military to participate and lead in an international framework, including through the European Union and NATO. Africa comprises the heaviest French military commitment abroad. However, France is also a significant contributor to international military operations in Central--Southwest Asia and the Balkans. By helping to stabilize sensitive areas in Central Asia, the Balkans, or in Sub-Saharan Africa, overseas operations led by the French Armed Forces have helped to prevent those areas from becoming safe-havens for terrorist activity. Throughout 2004 and 2005, France has been a major contributor in the fight against terrorism as part of the international coalition in Afghanistan. As such, France volunteered to participate under the command of the United States in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Moreover, security, stabilization and training operations led by the French Armed Forces within the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) is helping Afghanistan in its transition from a terrorist sanctuary to a growing democracy.

¶3. (U) France maintains the largest active duty military force in the European Union and the second largest active

duty military force in NATO, with an active force of approximately 355,000. Furthermore, France sustains a large percentage of this active duty force deployed in operations in overseas French territories or in sovereign territories around the world. The average number of deployed forces outside of France was 35,000 in 2004, and 32,500 in 2005. Over 13,500 of those deployed are actively engaged in international mandates supporting counter-terrorist operations, humanitarian operations, peacekeeping operations, stability operations, and capacity building. To support this level of external international mandate operations, France spends approximately USD 790 million per year from a defense budget of 52 billion dollars.

France's Global Reach: Peace Support Operations Worldwide

14. (U) France eagerly participates in international peace support operations and is a leading force contributor to stabilization operations in the Balkans and in Africa. In Cote d'Ivoire, France's most significant overseas operation, French troops enforce a tenuous cease-fire and are providing the backbone to the United Nations operation as a quick reaction force. French troops have been actively engaged since the summer of 2004 in preventing the Darfur crisis from expanding into Chad. In the Balkans, French troops are present in every military mission across Bosnia, Kosovo, and Macedonia: SFOR/EUFOR, KFOR, UNMIK, UNMIK, EUMM, and ALTHEA. During "Operation Secure Tomorrow," to stabilize Haiti, France deployed the second largest contingent alongside the United States. Contributing troops under international mandate is a point of principle in Paris. The UN, where France has a veto as a permanent member of the Security Council, is its preferred forum for crisis resolution. France has observers currently participating in UN missions in the Balkans, Georgia, Lebanon, Israel, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Burundi, DROC, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Western Sahara, and Haiti. It also participates in the multinational force in the Sinai.

France and the War in Iraq

15. (U) The French government has forbidden its military from contributing troops to the NATO training mission inside Iraq (NTM-1). One French officer is working on the training mission staff at SHAPE Headquarters in Belgium, and the GoF pledged 660,000 euros in February 2005 to help finance NTM-1. In 2005, the GoF took initial steps to contribute to the development of Iraqi defense and security capabilities. Under the European Union's EUJUSTLEX program, France has pledged to train 200 Iraqi police officials and judges in rule of law training in France, making France the top EU contributor to this program. Approximately 40 Iraqi police officials (non-military) completed month-long training at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Officiers de Police and the Ecole Nationale de Police in 2005. A third course started at the end of 2005 for judicial instruction at the Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature. At the same time, a French offer to train up to 1,500 Iraqi paramilitary police (gendarmes) outside Iraq remains unimplemented, although an Iraqi Ministry of Interior delegation visited France in July 2005 to further discuss the proposal. Currently there is a single Gendarme Officer in Iraq, responsible for provision of security for French embassy staff in Baghdad.

France and the War on Terrorism

16. (U) France is currently the third-largest contributor to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, and one of the few nations other than the U.S. to have had troops engaged in Operation Enduring Freedom. ISAF and training programs for the Afghan army since these efforts began. French Mirage-2000 fighters have flown with USAF fighters to assist American and Afghan ground troops. French deployments to the Horn of Africa remain focused on counterterrorism; the French assisted in the establishment of USCJTF Horn of Africa, and otherwise continue to allow the U.S. to share their base in Djibouti in connection with operations in the Indian Ocean, Red Sea and Persian Gulf. France is a part of Task Force 150, a multinational naval force that patrols the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf to interdict the movement of suspected terrorists from Afghanistan to the Arabian Peninsula.

17. (U) France participates in Operation Active Endeavor in the Eastern Mediterranean. France is also actively involved with the Proliferation Security Initiative. It is also a party to all 12 existing international terrorism conventions and is active in the UN and G8 counterterrorism committees.

18. (U) In 2005, France continued to discover and dismantle terror networks present on its soil, including several that recruited jihadists to Iraq. Following the July 2005 bombings in London, French officials worked closely with their British counterparts. They also identified a number of deficiencies in their counterterrorism capabilities, and proposed legislation to remedy these deficiencies. This fast-tracked legislation became law in late January, 2006. The French government is also expected to issue in February 2006 a "white book" on terrorism that will underscore their belief that terrorism is a primary strategic threat to France, and that dealing with it is consequentially a central priority. France consults extensively with the U.S. on terrorism, at the tactical and strategic level.

Africa

19. (U) The French military has shown an increasing interest to cooperate with others, particularly with the U.S., in Africa. In the past three years, there have been Non-combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) executed in three African countries, NEO planning for four other potential crises, as well as U.S. and French multilateral programs, such as GPOI - ACOTA, RECAM, and joint financial and logistical support for ECOWAS, ECCAS, and the African Union. In the Gulf of Guinea and Trans-Sahel region, France has expressed interest in the U.S. effort to improve the posture of African countries in the fight against terrorism. Both the U.S. and France continue to broadly support capacity building for African militaries. (See paragraphs 12, 32 40, 42-43, 46, 59, 72, 82-86, 89 and 94 for more on French involvement in Africa.)

France, NATO and ESDP

10. (SBU) Despite its singular stance on alliance membership (France is not a member of NATO's integrated military command), France has continued to demonstrate willingness to engage in NATO responses to common challenges. France has been a major contributor to operations in the Balkans (SFOR, now EUFOR, and KFOR) and in NATO's operations in Afghanistan (International Security Assistance Force). In KFOR in Kosovo, French troops are the second-largest national contingent, significantly outnumbering U.S. units. In Afghanistan, France has some 900 troops, which will increase to approximately 1400 in August 2006, when France assumes command of the Kabul region of ISAF. During December 2004-August 2005, France held the rotating command of ISAF. France also contributed to NATO Humanitarian Relief Operations in Bagh, Pakistan.

11. (SBU) The French have consistently expressed their support for NATO's transformation, and are contributing substantial resources to the NATO Response Force: the French military has identified forces that at initial stages will amount to 40 per cent of ground units, 30 per cent of air assets, and 20 per cent of naval capabilities, and has proposed contributing EUROCORPS to the NRF at a later stage. France has restructured some of its own forces with land, air and sea High Readiness Response force fully compatible with the NATO Response Force. It has offered headquarter slots in Lille for fellow NATO members.

12. (SBU) Interest in being part of NATO transformation has not diminished the deep commitment of the GoF to fostering European security and defense arrangements. Many in the GoF envision that transatlantic security relations of the future will increasingly include bilateral U.S.-EU cooperation. Throughout 2004 and 2005, the French vigorously pursued their goal of establishing independent European defense structures and supporting increased EU missions. France supported an EU assistance mission to Darfur in the Sudan, to support the African Union's intervention. France continues to push its EU partners for completion of a separate EU planning headquarters, a small but independent EU operational planning unit, as well as an EU cell at SHAPE. EU operations may also continue to be planned at national headquarters. Additionally, France has been a key player in setting up and funding the European Defense procurement agency (EDA), designed to coordinate defense procurement among EU allies, and which became operational in 2005 with a small staff numbering some 80 persons and a budget of 20 million euros.

13. (U) In January 2006, the European gendarmerie force was formally inaugurated in Vicenza, Italy. The concept dates back to October 2003, when French Defense Minister Michele Alliot-Marie proposed the creation of the European gendarmerie consisting of some 800 gendarmes from Spain, Italy, Portugal and the Netherlands to take on police training and other police functions as part of the EU's

response to crises.

French Training and Participation in Joint Exercises

¶14. (U) In the European AOR, in cooperation with the US Commander Naval Forces Europe, the French Navy participated in 3 Non-NATO exercises and 6 NATO exercises in 2004 including a Proliferation Security Initiative exercise, a NATO anti-submarine exercise, a Multi-lateral Livex, PFP exercise BALTOPS 04, and a NATO Joint fleet training exercise (a major NRF event sponsored by NATO).

¶15. (U) In 2005, France participated in 6 Non-NATO exercises and 13 NATO exercises. The French Navy participated in RECAM IV, JMC 05-1 and 05-2, a multilateral FTX helping qualify the Italian maritime High Readiness Force (HRF), two multilateral anti-submarine exercises, Trident D'Or (the exercise to qualify the French maritime HRF, a LIVEEX Mine Warfare Exercise in the North Sea, FRUKUS (CPX/FTX with French, Russian, U.S., and U.K. navy participation, Sorbet Royale (a LIVEEX Submarine Rescue Exercise), Bright Star (a multi-national, multi-warfare LIVEEX executing in Egypt), Loyal Midas (a multilateral FTX to qualify a stand-by Maritime Component Commander for a future NRF rotation.

¶16. (U) Overall objectives for Navy training in 2005 were: 100 days at sea per ship, 13 exercises, four of which were Amphibious exercises, three of which were mine warfare exercises, two deployments of the Charles de Gaulle CVBG, participation in one major NATO exercise, participation in one major EU exercise and five Joint exercises.

¶17. (U) The French air force continues to seek opportunities to exercise and train with the US. During 2005, the French air force participated in Exercise Bright Star in Egypt, and Exercise Air Warrior in the US. France also continues to offer the US opportunities to use their training ranges and training airspace associated with Corsica in the Mediterranean Sea.

French Support for Space Launch Activities

¶18. (U) France supported multiple space launch activities from their facilities in the Pacific, the Indian Ocean, and the south of France. The French government approved a US request to use the islands of Reunion and Nuka Hiva for telemetry tracking missions supporting NASA space launches. Additionally, the French support US space shuttle launches with access to the French Air Base in Istres France as an alternate shuttle landing site.

Defense Trade and Industrial Cooperation

¶19. (U) Source priorities in order of importance for French defense acquisition remain France, EU, and all others (to include the U.S.). National pride and limited budgets govern this order. The French defense industry continues to provide the greatest depth and breadth of any western European country. While its technology is sometimes peer-level with the U.S., it is actually superior in specific niche areas (e.g., thermal imaging and optics). The single most limiting factor is defense spending.

¶20. (U) In the past year, the French Ministry of Defense continued its pursuit of revitalization of forces. Despite competing government interests, the budget of the Defense Ministry remained untouched (the Interior was the only other ministry spared from budget cuts). Highlights for 2005-2006 spending include: a second aircraft carrier; introduction of the Rafale fighter aircraft; the European Multi-Mission Frigate (FREMM); Network-Centric command and control systems; Tigre and NH-90 helicopters; transport aircraft; third and fourth strategic missile submarines; and cruise missile development. Only minor increases in research and development, as compared to previous years, were approved.

¶21. (U) Foreign Military Sales from the US increased from FY03 to FY04 (USD 45.6M to USD 66.9M), while direct commercial sales decreased (USD 18.9M to USD 12.7M.) Pending US sales include the Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment (ALRE) for the second French aircraft carrier, and a cruise missile simulator. FMS training funds were expended as in previous years, with the majority centered on carrier aviation training and support.

¶22. (U) Service-specific Data Exchange Agreements (DEAs) remained essentially stable, yet significantly, renegotiation of four Navy DEAs was concluded, extending their expiration dates to 2010. Discussions continue

regarding remaining DEAs and four newly proposed agreements. Foreign Comparative Testing programs continue to show interest in French technologies, with recent focus on underwater GPS, perimeter defense, shipboard self-defense, and bomb casing design. Benchmarking studies have been conducted on ship design and manpower reduction.

123. (U) U.S. defense acquisition and sales interests in France are significant and include (by service): for the Air Force, C-130J, KC-130J, C-17 sales and French AWACS upgrade; for the Army and USMC, Sophie, 120mm rifled mortars, Active Protection System armor for ground vehicles, and hybrid electric vehicles; for the Navy, ALRE sale, unmanned submerged/underwater vehicles, and maritime domain awareness, and network-centric enabled operations. All services are focused on any technology that can assist in the efforts of the IED Task Force.

124. (U) Privatization of the defense sector has continued, albeit at a slow pace. Although the GoF still maintains so-called "golden shares" in several firms, globalization has eroded their total control in this arena. For example, the recently privatized shipbuilding firm DCN has again partnered with Thales in planning the second French aircraft carrier, and was recently awarded a contract by the French Navy for total lifetime maintenance support for their fleet warships and major combat systems.

125. (U) The anticipated absorption of OCCAR (the Organization for Joint Armament Cooperation) into the European Defense Agency has stalled, although OCCAR did play a role in guiding the French and Italian defense ministries to select the General Electric engines for the European Multi-Mission Frigate (FREMM) in late 2005.

126. (U) The EU's European Capabilities Action Plan (ECAP) goal is to coordinate financing processes and to get European defense industry involved in identifying and filling gaps. There is also a recent effort to engage university research labs through funding made available from private industries. Further privatization and increased competitiveness of the French defense sector should support these trends.

127. (U) Tangential but significant issues to defense cooperation include continued pursuit of a Declaration of Principles (DoP) on armaments and end-use controls required by the U.S. on jointly produced systems, which prevent French sales to third parties without USG approval (viewed with concern by French government and private industry alike though France requires similar guarantees from their customers for French products). On the other hand, U.S. Presidential intervention in rejecting the so-called "buy American" provisions in the recent U.S. defense bill was well received.

128. (U) Recent overtures on the part of both the U.S. and French governments have led to an increase in official bilateral defense discussions and activity. The impending change of government in 2007 will have a significant impact on whether or not this trend continues. While France's 2005 vote against the EU referendum was seen as a setback to both the French government and to the EU's future, its full effect remains to be seen. As noted above, there are signs of consolidation of efforts among EU institutions, specifically in the defense arena. Economic realities and collective resolve should eventually determine whether these trends continue.

The Future of French Defense Spending

129. (U) Future French Defense budgets must conform to a new inter-governmental finance law known by the acronym LOLF (Organic Law of the Finance Law). In this new framework, the funding made available to the Ministry of Defense abandons the traditional budget distributions by 'Titles' and instead is presented as 'missions and programs'. The most significant of these is the mission to 'Put into action the National Defense Policy'. Two of its supporting programs are 'Prepare the Force' and 'Equip the Force'. In all, the Defense Ministry budget will be organized around four missions and nine supporting programs. In an effort to improve the coherence of the defense budget, the LOLF ties budgetary allocations to performance. Also, for the first budget cycle under this new system, the Chiefs of Staff of the services have less influence on service budgets. Their role is now to assure the coherence of the budget rather than the direction of it. In a May 21, 2005 Presidential decree, the Chiefs of the Armed Services are now subordinate to the Chief of Defense (CHOD). The CHOD now controls all budgets and procurement financing. Service budgets now must pass through the CHOD before they go to the Minister's office for approval. (For more information on defense spending and the LOLF see paragraphs 111-113.)

130. (U) The 2006 defense budget represents a 2.2% increase over the 2005 fiscal year. In spite of the Defense Minister's ability to protect the defense budget from cuts, there continue to be difficulties for the French military in the future. These difficulties stem primarily from three areas: first, the inflationary pressures of the price of energy; second, cost overruns/delays in procurement; and third, increased maintenance costs. Most of the planning for the current five-year budget requests was predicated on the cost of a barrel of oil at half the current price. This increase will translate into fewer flying hours, fewer training days, and fewer days at sea in the next few years. Procurement of several current military systems is behind the original schedule or experiencing technical problems. These delays include the Tigre helicopter, Rafale fighter aircraft, A-400M transport aircraft, and the new command ship (BPC). The final expense increase will be the result of maintaining the older systems in the French military until sufficient numbers can replace them.

Transforming Military Capabilities

131. (U) In spite of not being part of the integrated military command structure of NATO, in January, 2004 France received two general officer billets within the command: one at Atlantic Command Operations (SHAPE) and one at Atlantic Command Transformation (Norfolk). The French have assigned 110 military personnel to the two headquarters, representing 2.04% of overall NATO staff posts. The French have also agreed to increase their contribution to Alliance military budgets from 4.9% to 7.4%. Nonetheless, despite disclaimers to the contrary, the French have given mixed signals over the past two years on their vision of the future NATO. These views have ranged from a desire for closer integration with NATO to generally limiting the scope of NATO's operations or in favor of an EU defense force.

132. (U) France has been a leading proponent to advance a "battle-group" concept to create rotational 1500-man size forces for use in Chapter VII mandates by the European Union. Based on the EU Operation ARTEMIS model (the French led deployment to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2003) the force would be capable of responding to a crisis within 15 days and be sustainable for 30 days minimum, 120 days maximum. Full operational capability is scheduled for 12007. The French insist that these battle groups would be compatible with NATO NRF rotations, with either taking the lead on the basis of a mutually-agreed decision. Africa has been mentioned as a primary venue for the battle-groups.

133. (U) The French Army is investing in UAVs, the Improved Infantry Armored Vehicle (VBCI), advanced communications equipment, counter-fire radars, and lighter equipment for armored units. They are beginning the process of digitization of the Army's battlefield systems and purchasing an individual soldier system - the Felin, the French Army's equivalent to the U.S. Army's Land Warrior system. These initiatives will enhance French abilities to interoperate with US forces and systems.

134. (U) The French Navy has stood up and qualified the HRF (M) headquarters staff, the naval component headquarters of France's NRF, in Toulon in 2004 and 2005. This force will deploy to the Gulf of Oman and Indian Ocean in 2006. Additionally, the Admiral, Naval Action Force (ALFAN) in Toulon has continued to develop over 2004 and 2005. This command is now roughly equivalent to the U.S. Fleet Forces Command and has responsibilities for training, certifying, and equipping French naval forces. In an effort to improve intelligence support to the French Navy, the French stood up a French intelligence command called Centre de Renseignement Maritime (CRMar).

135. (U) In the context of trying to become more efficient and capable of joint and international operations, the French Air Force is in the process of a major reorganization. In November 2003, a project team of senior staff officers, outgoing base commanders and civilian consultants was created and given the mission to develop a plan to create a better Air Force. The project team started its work in September 2004 and unveiled the plan in October 12005. The ideas will be progressively implemented beginning in 2006. This ambitious reorganization project, named Air 2010, aims in particular at removing duplication and creating synergy. It will serve to optimize the air base network while preserving existing capabilities. In summary, the Air Force will replace the twelve current commands with four large functional 'poles.' The Operations Pole will be in charge of current operations in France and abroad. The Forces pole will be charged with leading the preparation and training of the whole of the

combat forces. The Support Pole will bring together within the same staff all the maintenance, logistics, and life support. The Personnel Pole will join together all the personnel training and staff management functions.

136. (U) The French military is actively exploring ways to increase interoperability with the U.S. with respect to the global information grid and uses of information on the modern battlefield. As of late 2005, the French MOD has directed increased contact between French military officials and U.S. military officials in an effort to ensure the French capability to interoperate with the U.S. is maintained and improved. This French initiative is aimed at keeping up with the U.S. lead in information technology, particularly targeting data and friendly force tracking. The French desperately want to preserve the ability to conduct combat operations with the U.S. in every domain air, land, and sea.

Recent Contingency Operations, Military Assistance, Humanitarian Relief Operations, Peacekeeping, Capacity Building, Counterproliferation and Nuclear Threat Reduction.

137. (U) The French continue to show their support for operations in Afghanistan. In 2006, they are planning to augment their forces to support the increased responsibilities of the Kabul regional command in addition to the military assets already in place in support of ISAF and OEF (see paragraphs 53-56 for more detail). Furthermore, the French continue to be actively involved in the fight against terrorism through the OEF Task Force 150 and in the US Counter-Drug effort (see paragraphs 59-60 for more detail.)

138. (U) The French Army has been training the Afghan National Army within the overall U.S.-led program since its inception and the French have consistently expressed a desire to be part of NATO's transformation and interoperability initiatives as evidenced by their significant national contributions to the NATO Response Force (NRF) (see paragraphs 66-67 for more detail).

139. (U) In the Balkans, French forces remain among the largest contributors to operations in Kosovo and French participation in the former NATO SFOR mission in Bosnia continued under the EU Force, Operation Althea. The French continue to maintain a small French military presence in Macedonia. They also provide a small presence force in Georgia. (See paragraphs 70-71 for more detail).

140. (U) In Africa, France has provided 80 million euros to Darfur through the African Union and provides support to Chad on a bilateral basis. The French transported the Senegalese units of the AU force to Sudan and the Nigerian police contingent. (See paragraph 72 for more detail).

141. (U) In response to natural disasters in 2004 and 2005 France contributed substantially to Pakistan Earthquake relief efforts, the South Asian Tsunami relief efforts, and relief efforts after hurricane Katrina hit the southern United States. (See paragraphs 73-81 for more detail).

142. (U) The major part of France's efforts at capacity building in the world is focused on Africa where France relies on its forces stationed in seven nations to conduct most of its capacity building operations (see paragraphs 82-85 for more detail). Also, 4000 French troops stand alongside UNOCI in Operation Licorne in Cote d'Ivoire in support of the UN operation, in addition to the French permanent base in Abidjan.

143. (U) French Gendarmerie has taken the lead in the development of the European Gendarmerie Force. French Gendarmes are also deployed in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Haiti (MINUSTAH), Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, and the Central Africa Republic. They also conducted training in Kinshasa, Kenya (see paragraphs 86-89 for more detail).

144. (U) In the summer of 2004, the French also began a joint fighter pilot training school in Cazeaux, France (see paragraph 90 for more detail).

145. (U) As a nuclear state, France endorses deterrence theory and holds to long-standing NATO doctrines. It has consistently supported international arms control regimes as a means of bolstering stability and transparency. In addition to its continued support for international mechanisms to limit proliferation, France with their British and German colleagues pursued EU3 negotiations to obtain Iranian compliance with Iran's Safeguard Agreement commitments. EU3 efforts led to the signing of the Paris Agreement in November 2004. Iranian resumption of

conversion in August 2005, and research on enrichment in December 2005, led to suspension of Paris Agreement discussions. France and its EU partners, with U.S. support, continue to pursue efforts to convince Iran to suspend its nuclear ambitions. (See paragraphs 91-93 for more detail).

146. (U) The French military continues to maintain strong contacts with the U.S. and other NATO countries for contingency planning. During 2004 and 2005, France conducted planning and exchanges with EUCOM and CENTCOM. French and U.S. analysts and planners share information on terrorism and WMD proliferation as well as political-military developments. From the beginning of operations in Afghanistan (both OEF and ISAF), and the Lebanon crisis, French and U.S. planners have continued to work together to produce effective, timely results. French forces permanently or temporarily stationed in Africa and Central Asia have assisted U.S. operations in the EUCOM and CENTCOM theater of operations.

REF A PARAS 9-10: DIRECT COST-SHARING

147. (U) No direct cost sharing activities occur in France

REF A PARA 11: INDIRECT COST SHARING

148. (U) No indirect cost-sharing activities as described in Ref A paragraph 11 occur in France. However the U.S. did receive several types of miscellaneous indirect cost-sharing benefits from France as described below.

Overflight Clearances, Port Access, Use of French Facilities

149. (U) In 2004, France granted overflight and landing clearances to 1842 USG missions. 977 of these missions were in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. 76 of these missions supported operations in the Balkans. During 2005, France granted 2061 overflight and landing clearances to USG missions. 811 of these missions supported OIF while 68 supported Balkan operations. France continued to grant blanket overflight clearances to most USG missions allowing over flights of and landings in France without notice.

150. (U) The 744 Expeditionary Air Base Group operated three KC-135 tanker aircraft from Istres Airbase in southern France during most of 2004. This group of 100 US military personnel flew air refueling missions supporting operations in the Balkans. The French provided fuel tax-free. The mission ended in December 2004.

151. (U) Tax concessions on fuel and landing fees for non-operational missions during 2004 totaled approximately 4000 dollars. During 2005 these concessions totaled 8450 dollars.

152. (U) During 2004 the US Navy made 14 port calls to facilities in metropolitan France. In 2005 the number of port calls was 29. In all cases, the French Navy provided excellent support and force protection services without cost. Additionally, no taxes were imposed for supplies or parts for US ships visiting French ports.

REF A PARA 12 RECENT CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, HUMANITARIAN RELIEF OPERATIONS, CAPACITY BUILDING, COUNTERPROLIFERATION, AND NUCLEAR THREAT REDUCTION

Subparagraph A: Recent Contingency operations (See French Force Disposition and External Operations Table for personnel numbers)

153. (U) The French were among the first nations to volunteer troops to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission in Afghanistan and France continues to be responsible for Kabul International Airport and the area

north of Kabul to the U.S. base at Bagram. A French battalion has been a part of ISAF since December 2001. From August 2004 to February 2005, a French general commanded the NATO-led ISAF. France has proposed an increased role in ISAF and offered to lead Regional Command Kabul as part of the NATO reorganization and expansion of ISAF. In October 2005, France and Turkey announced that they would co-lead Regional Command-Kabul. The French are planning to augment their forces from the current 700 in ISAF to between 1,000 1,200 personnel to support the increased responsibilities of the regional command to include providing a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) battalion. The French have continued to provide a military police detachment in support of ISAF.

154. (U) Supporting OEF, the French Armed Forces continue to be actively involved in the fight against terrorism. 200 members of the French Special Forces are currently deployed in the South of Afghanistan alongside U.S. Special Forces in military operations against the Taliban.

155. (U) France assigned liaison officers to the U.S. staff headquarters in Tampa to ensure the interface between the military authorities of the two countries. French forces were directly involved in the fight against terrorism by carrying out the following missions:

156. (U) The air and sea group took part in air operations above Afghanistan in April-May 2004 (84 aircrafts were involved in operational missions for 450 flight hours). The French Air Force deployed within less than 48 hours six Mirage 2000D and two refueling aircraft from metropolitan France to the deployable airbase in Manas (Kyrgyzstan) which played a key role in the prosecution of air campaigns.

157. (U) In addition, two C160 airplanes with 130 soldiers of the Air Force have been operating in Dushanbe (Tajikistan) since December 3, 2001, totaling 10,000 flight hours. This detachment is focused on airlifting the French Forces operating in different areas in Afghanistan.

158. (U) In October 2004, three Mirage F1CR and one tanker C135FR were deployed in Dushanbe to carry out tactical reconnaissance missions for ISAF and the coalition against terrorism. To help promote the development of democracy in Afghanistan in close collaboration with its allies, the French Air Force again deployed an air detachment in Dushanbe, from August through November 2005 during the parliamentary elections. Within ISAF, the detachment, which includes three Mirage F1CR, three Mirage 2000D and two tankers C135FR based in Manas, was intended to establish an air presence throughout the country and support ground forces operations to deter any action likely to disrupt the elections. It was also entrusted with the mission to undertake reconnaissance and fire support operations supporting OEF.

159. Finally, the French military participates in the fight against terrorism within the OEF Task Force 150 (TF 150). The Task Force is actively involved in the following operations:

- monitoring air and sea movements in the Red Sea, the Sea of Oman, the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf,
- prohibiting the filtration of terrorists to the Arabian Peninsula or the Horn of Africa,
- fighting against illegal trafficking (weapons, drugs etc.),
- fighting against piracy and banditry acts.

160. (U) Since February 2003, a EUROMARFOR task group is part of the TF 150 and operates under the command of the U.S. staff. The French Navy greatly contributes to the TF 150 (about a quarter of the Task Force) with three ships operating on a permanent basis. France took command of TF 150 twice from September 2003 to January 2004 and from June to September 2004.

161. (U) An aircraft based in Djibouti, which was incorporated into the Task Force 57 (TF 57), is intended to patrol in coordination with the TF 150 ships. The 62 French ships involved in Operation Enduring Freedom since 15 December 2001 totaled more than 6,000 days at sea.

162. (U) The French Navy's strong participation in CTF-150, both by continuously providing ships and often providing a command staff in the Indian Ocean, particularly off of Somalia and the Gulf of Oman, and the presence of French Navy liaison personnel at NAVCENT Headquarters in Bahrain makes possible a good degree of interaction and cooperation in this key region. The French also maintain maritime patrol aircraft worldwide and cooperate with the U.S. Navy where there is common interest.

163. (U) The French also participate in the US Counter-Drug effort with Naval Forces. A French military officer is

assigned to the Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF South) in Key West, to ensure coordination with French forces in the Caribbean. Fort-de-France in Martinique supports U.S. Navy and Coast Guard units with port visits and the Navy Command in Fort-de-France has assisted the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard with the movement of personnel and weapons between various ships and aircraft. The direct participation of the French Navy in counter-drug operations consists of the deployment of frigates to the region to work with U.S. forces on a regular basis and the use of Maritime Patrol Aircraft deployed to the region.

164. (U) In 2004, the French Navy stopped three drug trafficking ships in the Antilles and one Togolese ship in the Gulf of Guinea with 450 kg of cocaine. The counter drug effort of the French Navy in 2004 was 199 days at sea, 156 hours of flight, 2058 ships queried, four ships intercepted, and 1020 kg of drugs seized.

165. (U) In 2004, the French Navy effort against clandestine immigration equaled 683 days at sea, 904 flight hours, three ships intercepted, 43 clandestine immigrants turned over to border police.

Subparagraph B. Military Assistance:
NRF/NTMI/Afghanistan/NATO PKO.

166. (U) The French Army has been training the Afghan National Army within the overall U.S.-led program since its inception. Since 2002, the French have trained more than 2,000 Afghans. This includes three of the initial battalions; they have set-up the officer basic course and the staff officer's course. The French are currently participating in the Embedded Training Team concept with French Army soldiers assigned to mentor an Afghan battalion in Kandahar.

167. (U) The French have consistently expressed a desire to be part of NATO's transformation and interoperability initiatives as evidenced by their significant national contributions to the NATO Response Force (NRF). By participating in NRFs 1 through 6, the total French military contribution equals up to 40 percent of ground units, 30 percent of air assets, and 20 percent of naval capabilities. The French air force provides the deployable combined air operations center (CAOC) for the European led NRF. In January 2005, the French air force conducted AIREX 2005, a training exercise, to prepare for command of NRF-05 in July. On July 1st, the French air force became the Joint Forces Air Component Commander (JFACC) of NRF-05 for six months. In 2004, NATO sent the NRF's Land Component Command Headquarters, the French led EUROCORPS, to lead the ISAF in Afghanistan. As part of NRF 5, NATO activated France's Joint Forces Air Component Commander (JFACC) to coordinate the air movements for the Pakistan earthquake relief effort. On 1 October 2005, the French formally created a multinational headquarters to serve as the Land Component Command for future rotations of the NRF.

168. (U) In 2005, the French also established a Maritime Component Command HQ to serve in future iterations of NATO's NRF. The French Navy successfully stood-up the High-Readiness Force Maritime (HRF-M) staff in Toulon and qualified the staff during an at-sea exercise in 2005. This staff, will serve its rotational duties as an on-call force, ahead of schedule, and is being used by the French for out-of-area operations, for example, during the upcoming Arabian Sea/Indian Ocean deployment of the Charles de Gaulle Carrier Battle Group in early 2006. There is one U.S. Naval Officer assigned to the HRF-M staff.

169. (U) The French government has forbidden its military from contributing troops to the NATO training mission inside Iraq (NTM-1). One French officer is working on the training mission staff at SHAPE Headquarters in Belgium, and the GoF pledged 660,000 euros in February 2005 to help finance NTM-1. In 2005, the GoF took initial steps to contribute to the development of Iraqi defense and security capabilities. Under the European Union's EUJUSTLEX program, France has pledged to train 200 Iraqi police officials and judges in rule of law training in France, making France the top EU contributor to this program. Approximately 40 Iraqi police officials (non-military) completed month-long training at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Officiers de Police and the Ecole Nationale de Police in 2005. A third course started at the end of 2005 for judicial instruction at the Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature. At the same time, a French offer to train up to 1,500 Iraqi paramilitary police (gendarmes) outside Iraq remains unimplemented, although an Iraqi Ministry of Interior delegation visited France in July 2005 to further discuss the proposal. Currently there is a single Gendarme Officer in Iraq, responsible for provision of security for

French embassy staff in Baghdad.

170. (U) In the Balkans, French forces remain among the largest contributors to operations in Kosovo. French participation in the former NATO SFOR mission in Bosnia continued under the EU Force, Operation Althea. 210 Gendarmes supported both the United Nations Interim mission in Kosovo and the NATO Intervention Forces in Kosovo. French Lieutenant General de Kermabon transferred authority as COMKFOR on 1 September 2005 after one year of command, the second time France has commanded KFOR. The French government provided approximately 60 gendarmes, including 20 officers to help combat organized crime under the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Additionally, they provided European Union Police and military police in support of European Union Forces in Bosnia.

171. (U) The French continue to maintain a small French military presence (15 personnel) in Macedonia providing international police in support of the European Police Mission. They also provide a small presence force (three military observers) in Georgia to help support the U.N. monitoring mission.

172. (U) Regarding peacekeeping efforts in Africa, there has been ongoing debate as to NATO's role in Africa. This debate was most evident during the 2005 crisis in Darfur with France focusing its support for the AU through the EU. France, however, honored its pledge to SECSTATE that it would not oppose a NATO role in the crisis. France has provided 80 million euros to Darfur through the African Union and provides support to Chad on a bilateral basis. French troops and aircraft are conducting ground and air border security. During 2005, France provided refueling support to NATO and EU aircraft at Abech in Eastern Chad, as well as personnel recovery capabilities using three C-160 transport aircraft and three Puma helicopters. The French transported the Senegalese units of the AU force to Sudan and the Nigerian police contingent.

Subpara C: Humanitarian Relief Operations
NATOHMRO/Pakistan/Katrina/Tsunami

173. (U) In 2003, France allotted 9.3 million euros (USD 11.2 million) to what it termed Emergency Humanitarian Assistance, all of which was channeled through the Emergency Humanitarian Aid Fund of the MFA. In 2004, the initial allotment was 9.3 million euros (USD 11.2 million). The fund may be increased on an extraordinary basis to finance unexpected operations; this was the case in 2005, when France announced an emergency increased allotment of 2.8 million euros (USD 3.4 million) in favor of the victims of natural disasters or civil crises, primarily focused on the victims of the tsunami in Thailand, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Indonesia, and India, and an additional allocation of 5.6 million euros (USD 6.7 million) for the victims of the earthquake in Pakistan (see paragraphs below). The additional aid is imputed into the 2005 balance sheet bringing the total amount of emergency donations to 16,147,081 million euros. Allotments in 2006 are projected to increase to benefit victims of 2005's Hurricane Katrina in the United States. For an economic analysis of general Grant Aid and Humanitarian Assistance see paragraphs 117-221.

174. (U) Pakistan Relief. The French contributed 82 military personnel to the Pakistan relief effort. In addition, the French air force deployed two C-130 Hercules military transport aircraft to deliver relief supplies. The effort included medical service personnel, a surgical team, and support personnel (communications, equipment, and logistics) in Pakistan. Forty-six of the military personnel were inserted into the various NATO elements in Islamabad, Lisbon, Germany, and Turkey. Additionally, as part of NRF 5, NATO activated France's JFACC to coordinate the air movement piece of the relief effort. The JFACC at Taverney, near Paris has 23 French, five UK, and one U.S. officer assigned.

175. (U) KATRINA Relief. The NRF was activated in September 2005 after hurricane Katrina. At the same time, France used its Joint Forces Air Component (JFACC) to task the French Air Force to collect and deliver the 150 tons of European supplies for Louisiana. This support was delivered to Ramstein airbase, Germany. The French air force also provided two transport aircraft to move over four tons of supplies, including tents, tarps, and 1000 rations, to the US from the Caribbean. Along with these supplies, the French provided a team of four civil security personnel to help assess future U.S. needs and distribute assistance. Two French liaison officers were posted to the Joint Forces Commander in Lisbon to help coordinate all European assistance. An Airbus Beluga aircraft also

delivered 12.7 tons of emergency equipment to Mobile, Alabama;

176. (U) The French Navy deployed a team of 17 Navy divers to assist with the Katrina disaster. This was facilitated by the fact that the French maintain a liaison officer with the U.S. Mine Warfare Command in Corpus Christi, Texas. The 17 French divers worked from September 11, 2005 to October 8, 2005 helping to clear waterways of debris and recover vessels.

177. (U) The GOF also offered the following contributions to assist with Katrina disaster recovery:
--The "Gendarmerie nationale" offered experts in forensic police;
--The GOF (with Airbus) offered to send an additional 20-30,000 food rations.

178. (U) Tsunami Relief. The French Navy worked with U.S. forces and other willing partners following the December 26, 2004 Tsunami in South East Asia. In response to this disaster, the French Navy re-routed its helicopter carrier, Jeanne D'Arc, and, after picking up extra emergency supplies from the French base in Djibouti, sent the units into the disaster region. By February 1, there were 1,390 French Military personnel assisting in the disaster area, most aboard the three ships involved. The French Helicopter Carrier, Jeanne D'Arc, and the Destroyer George Leygues DD-644 deployed to Indonesia on January 4 until February 9 while the Destroyer Dupleix DD-641 deployed to the Maldives from January 5 until February 1, 2005. The Jeanne D'Arc supplemented the normal on-board complement of helicopters with an additional two heavy-lift helicopters. Embarked were 12 medical doctors and support personnel.

179. (U) There was one French Maritime Patrol Aircraft deployed to Thailand from January 1, 2005 that worked in cooperation with the U.S. Navy P-3 aircraft. One additional French Maritime Patrol Aircraft deployed to Sri Lanka from December 30, 2004 to January 1, 2005.

180. (U) In support of the tsunami relief in South-East Asia, the French Gendarmerie provided several investigators to assist in the identification of victims.

181. (U) Other humanitarian efforts. In 2004, during the annual Jeanne D'Arc training cruise 9000 vaccinations were given, 519 tons of humanitarian supplies were delivered. During a deployment of the Dupleix, 180 tons of humanitarian supplies were delivered.

Subparagraph D. Capacity Building: Strengthening Governance in the World.

182. (U) The major part of France's efforts at capacity building in the world is focused on Africa. France relies on its forces stationed in seven nations to conduct most of its capacity building operations. These include Cameroon, Togo, the Central African Republic, the Gulf of Guinea, Haiti, and Cote d'Ivoire. Additionally, France uses forward presence forces; those stationed through bilateral defense agreements, for capacity building operations. Foreign presence forces are in Gabon, Djibouti, Senegal, the Indian Ocean, and the Pacific Ocean. The table on French Force Disposition and Exterior Operations presents the detailed numbers of personnel in each location and the additional expenditures of each operation. In total, these capacity building measures cost France 650 million Euros in 2004 (approximately USD 790 million).

183. (U) The REAMP (Reinforcing the Capabilities of Africans to Maintain Peace) program remains France's flagship strategy for defense and military cooperation in Africa. The goal of REAMP is to support an autonomous African security capability. It is also a multinational program to support the stability of Africa. REAMP is based on three pillars: cooperation, training, and support of African operational engagements. To support operations, France provides African forces with the materials and equipment necessary to deploy from three French battalion-size REAMP depots. These depots are located in Dakar, Libreville, and Djibouti. France has offered to make these depots available for USG use. The French Military Cooperation Directorate has a 100 million Euro annual budget and manages a network of 220 French military personnel located at African military schools and training centers.

184. (U) In the last cycle for REAMP IV in West Africa (Benin) in 2004 -2005, there were 14 African and 16 non-African participating states, including the United States. France seeks the participation of all African states in REAMP and solicits participation bilaterally and through

the African Union and sub-regional organizations. France also seeks multinational participation in the form of donor states and an increasing role of the European Union (EU). The program's present orientation focuses at the strategic-level and seeks to prepare the African sub-regional organizations and eventually the African Standby Forces (ASF) for peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief operations.

¶85. (U) Additional Capacity Building Examples: During 2005 in Chad, more than 300 French air force aviators conducted security and reconnaissance missions within the framework of the humanitarian operation Darfur.

¶86. (U) French Gendarmerie has taken the lead in the development of the European Gendarmerie Force. The initial commander of the force in the development of the headquarters is a French Gendarme General and the first headquarters exercise was conducted in France. The Gendarmerie has been consistently been asked to provide general and specialized training to other Gendarme forces or police forces throughout the world and particularly in the middle east and Africa. In fact, one French military police detachment is deployed in support of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)

¶87. (U) In Haiti, 40 Gendarme personnel supported the Multinational Stabilization Force (MINUSTAH) as part of the 1,000-man contingent of French personnel.

88 (U) Over 150 Gendarme personnel provided international police support for the United Nations Mission to Cote UNCLASSIFIED

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USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA

STATE FOR PM/SNA, EUR/WE; OSD FOR OSD/PA&E, OASD/ISA/EUR,
OASD/ISA/NP, OASD/ISA/AP, OASD/ISA/NESA AND OASD/ISA/BTF

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL MARR MCAP MARR MCAP FR FR PREL FR PREL
SUBJECT: EMBASSY PARIS SUBMISSION TO THE 2005/2006 REPORT
TO CONGRESS ON ALLIED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMON DEFENSE

REF: A. STATE 223383
 1B. PARIS 000005

This message is sensitive but unclassified. Not for Internet dissemination.

¶11. (U) Summary: This telegram constitutes Embassy Paris's country submission for the 2005/2006 Report to Congress on Allied Contributions to the Common Defense (requested Ref A). We report on developments that took place during calendar years 2004 and 2005 and offer cost sharing information for U.S. fiscal years 2004 and 2005. Embassy's contributions to the Report to Congress are keyed to paragraphs in Ref A where specific information is requested. End Summary.

Ref A Para 8: General Assessment

Overview

¶12. (U) France bears a significant share of the burden of defending international security and stability. It is firmly committed to conflict resolution, non- and counterproliferation, as well as to maintaining adequate conventional and nuclear capabilities. Only a few nations have the military capability to project power to a distant theater and sustain operations. France is one of these nations. It has the military personnel, equipment, and command capabilities as well as the will to employ them throughout the world. It is this total operational capability, and the resolve to act on the international stage, which allows the French military to participate and lead in an international framework, including through the

European Union and NATO. Africa comprises the heaviest French military commitment abroad. However, France is also a significant contributor to international military operations in Central--Southwest Asia and the Balkans. By helping to stabilize sensitive areas in Central Asia, the Balkans, or in Sub-Saharan Africa, overseas operations led by the French Armed Forces have helped to prevent those areas from becoming safe-havens for terrorist activity. Throughout 2004 and 2005, France has been a major contributor in the fight against terrorism as part of the international coalition in Afghanistan. As such, France volunteered to participate under the command of the United States in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Moreover, security, stabilization and training operations led by the French Armed Forces within the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) is helping Afghanistan in its transition from a terrorist sanctuary to a growing democracy.

13. (U) France maintains the largest active duty military force in the European Union and the second largest active duty military force in NATO, with an active force of approximately 355,000. Furthermore, France sustains a large percentage of this active duty force deployed in operations in overseas French territories or in sovereign territories around the world. The average number of deployed forces outside of France was 35,000 in 2004, and 32,500 in 2005. Over 13,500 of those deployed are actively engaged in international mandates supporting counter-terrorist operations, humanitarian operations, peacekeeping operations, stability operations, and capacity building. To support this level of external international mandate operations, France spends approximately USD 790 million per year from a defense budget of 52 billion dollars.

France's Global Reach: Peace Support Operations Worldwide

14. (U) France eagerly participates in international peace support operations and is a leading force contributor to stabilization operations in the Balkans and in Africa. In Cote d'Ivoire, France's most significant overseas operation, French troops enforce a tenuous cease-fire and are providing the backbone to the United Nations operation as a quick reaction force. French troops have been actively engaged since the summer of 2004 in preventing the Darfur crisis from expanding into Chad. In the Balkans, French troops are present in every military mission across Bosnia, Kosovo, and Macedonia: SFOR/EUFOR, KFOR, UNMIBH, UNMIK, EUMM, and ALTHEA. During "Operation Secure Tomorrow," to stabilize Haiti, France deployed the second largest contingent alongside the United States. Contributing troops under international mandate is a point of principle in Paris. The UN, where France has a veto as a permanent member of the Security Council, is its preferred forum for crisis resolution. France has observers currently participating in UN missions in the Balkans, Georgia, Lebanon, Israel, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Burundi, DROC, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Western Sahara, and Haiti. It also participates in the multinational force in the Sinai.

France and the War in Iraq

15. (U) The French government has forbidden its military from contributing troops to the NATO training mission inside Iraq (NTM-1). One French officer is working on the training mission staff at SHAPE Headquarters in Belgium, and the GoF pledged 660,000 euros in February 2005 to help finance NTM-1. In 2005, the GoF took initial steps to contribute to the development of Iraqi defense and security capabilities. Under the European Union's EUJUSTLEX program, France has pledged to train 200 Iraqi police officials and judges in rule of law training in France, making France the top EU contributor to this program. Approximately 40 Iraqi police officials (non-military) completed month-long training at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Officiers de Police and the Ecole Nationale de Police in 2005. A third course started at the end of 2005 for judicial instruction at the Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature. At the same time, a French offer to train up to 1,500 Iraqi paramilitary police (gendarmes) outside Iraq remains unimplemented, although an Iraqi Ministry of Interior delegation visited France in July 2005 to further discuss the proposal. Currently there is a single Gendarme Officer in Iraq, responsible for provision of security for French embassy staff in Baghdad.

France and the War on Terrorism

16. (U) France is currently the third-largest contributor

to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, and one of the few nations other than the U.S. to have had troops engaged in Operation Enduring Freedom, ISAF and training programs for the Afghan army since these efforts began. French Mirage-2000 fighters have flown with USAF fighters to assist American and Afghan ground troops. French deployments to the Horn of Africa remain focused on counterterrorism; the French assisted in the establishment of USCJTF Horn of Africa, and otherwise continue to allow the U.S. to share their base in Djibouti in connection with operations in the Indian Ocean, Red Sea and Persian Gulf. France is a part of Task Force 150, a multinational naval force that patrols the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf to interdict the movement of suspected terrorists from Afghanistan to the Arabian Peninsula.

17. (U) France participates in Operation Active Endeavor in the Eastern Mediterranean. France is also actively involved with the Proliferation Security Initiative. It is also a party to all 12 existing international terrorism conventions and is active in the UN and G8 counterterrorism committees.

18. (U) In 2005, France continued to discover and dismantle terror networks present on its soil, including several that recruited jihadists to Iraq. Following the July 2005 bombings in London, French officials worked closely with their British counterparts. They also identified a number of deficiencies in their counterterrorism capabilities, and proposed legislation to remedy these deficiencies. This fast-tracked legislation became law in late January, 2006. The French government is also expected to issue in February 2006 a "white book" on terrorism that will underscore their belief that terrorism is a primary strategic threat to France, and that dealing with it is consequentially a central priority. France consults extensively with the U.S. on terrorism, at the tactical and strategic level.

Africa

19. (U) The French military has shown an increasing interest to cooperate with others, particularly with the U.S., in Africa. In the past three years, there have been Non-combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) executed in three African countries, NEO planning for four other potential crises, as well as U.S. and French multilateral programs, such as GPOI - ACOTA, RECAMP, and joint financial and logistical support for ECOWAS, ECCAS, and the African Union. In the Gulf of Guinea and Trans-Sahel region, France has expressed interest in the U.S. effort to improve the posture of African countries in the fight against terrorism. Both the U.S. and France continue to broadly support capacity building for African militaries. (See paragraphs 12, 32 40, 42-43, 46, 59, 72, 82-86, 89 and 94 for more on French involvement in Africa.)

France, NATO and ESDP

10. (SBU) Despite its singular stance on alliance membership (France is not a member of NATO's integrated military command), France has continued to demonstrate willingness to engage in NATO responses to common challenges. France has been a major contributor to operations in the Balkans (SFOR, now EUFOR, and KFOR) and in NATO's operations in Afghanistan (International Security Assistance Force). In KFOR in Kosovo, French troops are the second-largest national contingent, significantly outnumbering U.S. units. In Afghanistan, France has some 900 troops, which will increase to approximately 1400 in August 2006, when France assumes command of the Kabul region of ISAF. During December 2004-August 2005, France held the rotating command of ISAF. France also contributed to NATO Humanitarian Relief Operations in Bagh, Pakistan.

11. (SBU) The French have consistently expressed their support for NATO's transformation, and are contributing substantial resources to the NATO Response Force: the French military has identified forces that at initial stages will amount to 40 per cent of ground units, 30 per cent of air assets, and 20 per cent of naval capabilities, and has proposed contributing EUROCORPS to the NRF at a later stage. France has restructured some of its own forces with land, air and sea High Readiness Response force fully compatible with the NATO Response Force. It has offered headquarter slots in Lille for fellow NATO members.

12. (SBU) Interest in being part of NATO transformation has not diminished the deep commitment of the GoF to fostering European security and defense arrangements. Many in the GoF envision that transatlantic security relations of the future will increasingly include bilateral U.S.-EU cooperation. Throughout 2004 and 2005, the French

vigorously pursued their goal of establishing independent European defense structures and supporting increased EU missions. France supported an EU assistance mission to Darfur in the Sudan, to support the African Union's intervention. France continues to push its EU partners for completion of a separate EU planning headquarters, a small but independent EU operational planning unit, as well as an EU cell at SHAPE. EU operations may also continue to be planned at national headquarters. Additionally, France has been a key player in setting up and funding the European Defense procurement agency (EDA), designed to coordinate defense procurement among EU allies, and which became operational in 2005 with a small staff numbering some 80 persons and a budget of 20 million euros.

¶13. (U) In January 2006, the European gendarmerie force was formally inaugurated in Vicenza, Italy. The concept dates back to October 2003, when French Defense Minister Michele Alliot-Marie proposed the creation of the European gendarmerie consisting of some 800 gendarmes from Spain, Italy, Portugal and the Netherlands to take on police training and other police functions as part of the EU's response to crises.

French Training and Participation in Joint Exercises

¶14. (U) In the European AOR, in cooperation with the US Commander Naval Forces Europe, the French Navy participated in 3 Non-NATO exercises and 6 NATO exercises in 2004 including a Proliferation Security Initiative exercise, a NATO anti-submarine exercise, a Multi-lateral Livex, PFP exercise BALTOPS 04, and a NATO Joint fleet training exercise (a major NRF event sponsored by NATO).

¶15. (U) In 2005, France participated in 6 Non-NATO exercises and 13 NATO exercises. The French Navy participated in RECAM IV, JMC 05-1 and 05-2, a multilateral FTX helping qualify the Italian maritime High Readiness Force (HRF), two multilateral anti-submarine exercises, Trident D'Or (the exercise to qualify the French maritime HRF, a LIVEEX Mine Warfare Exercise in the North Sea, FRUKUS (CPX/FTX with French, Russian, U.S., and U.K. navy participation, Sorbet Royale (a LIVEEX Submarine Rescue Exercise), Bright Star (a multi-national, multi-warfare LIVEEX executing in Egypt), Loyal Midas (a multilateral FTX to qualify a stand-by Maritime Component Commander for a future NRF rotation.

¶16. (U) Overall objectives for Navy training in 2005 were: 100 days at sea per ship, 13 exercises, four of which were Amphibious exercises, three of which were mine warfare exercises, two deployments of the Charles de Gaulle CVBG, participation in one major NATO exercise, participation in one major EU exercise and five Joint exercises.

¶17. (U) The French air force continues to seek opportunities to exercise and train with the US. During 2005, the French air force participated in Exercise Bright Star in Egypt, and Exercise Air Warrior in the US. France also continues to offer the US opportunities to use their training ranges and training airspace associated with Corsica in the Mediterranean Sea.

French Support for Space Launch Activities

¶18. (U) France supported multiple space launch activities from their facilities in the Pacific, the Indian Ocean, and the south of France. The French government approved a US request to use the islands of Reunion and Nuka Hiva for telemetry tracking missions supporting NASA space launches. Additionally, the French support US space shuttle launches with access to the French Air Base in Istres France as an alternate shuttle landing site.

Defense Trade and Industrial Cooperation

¶19. (U) Source priorities in order of importance for French defense acquisition remain France, EU, and all others (to include the U.S.). National pride and limited budgets govern this order. The French defense industry continues to provide the greatest depth and breadth of any western European country. While its technology is sometimes peer-level with the U.S., it is actually superior in specific niche areas (e.g., thermal imaging and optics). The single most limiting factor is defense spending.

¶20. (U) In the past year, the French Ministry of Defense continued its pursuit of revitalization of forces. Despite competing government interests, the budget of the Defense Ministry remained untouched (the Interior was the only

other ministry spared from budget cuts). Highlights for 2005-2006 spending include: a second aircraft carrier; introduction of the Rafale fighter aircraft; the European Multi-Mission Frigate (FREMM); Network-Centric command and control systems; Tigre and NH-90 helicopters; transport aircraft; third and fourth strategic missile submarines; and cruise missile development. Only minor increases in research and development, as compared to previous years, were approved.

¶21. (U) Foreign Military Sales from the US increased from FY03 to FY04 (USD 45.6M to USD 66.9M), while direct commercial sales decreased (USD 18.9M to USD 12.7M.) Pending US sales include the Aircraft Launch and Recovery Equipment (ALRE) for the second French aircraft carrier, and a cruise missile simulator. FMS training funds were expended as in previous years, with the majority centered on carrier aviation training and support.

¶22. (U) Service-specific Data Exchange Agreements (DEAs) remained essentially stable, yet significantly, renegotiation of four Navy DEAs was concluded, extending their expiration dates to 2010. Discussions continue regarding remaining DEAs and four newly proposed agreements. Foreign Comparative Testing programs continue to show interest in French technologies, with recent focus on underwater GPS, perimeter defense, shipboard self-defense, and bomb casing design. Benchmarking studies have been conducted on ship design and manpower reduction.

¶23. (U) U.S. defense acquisition and sales interests in France are significant and include (by service): for the Air Force, C-130J, KC-130J, C-17 sales and French AWACS upgrade; for the Army and USMC, Sophie, 120mm rifled mortars, Active Protection System armor for ground vehicles, and hybrid electric vehicles; for the Navy, ALRE sale, unmanned submerged/underwater vehicles, and maritime domain awareness, and network-centric enabled operations. All services are focused on any technology that can assist in the efforts of the IED Task Force.

¶24. (U) Privatization of the defense sector has continued, albeit at a slow pace. Although the GoF still maintains so-called "golden shares" in several firms, globalization has eroded their total control in this arena. For example, the recently privatized shipbuilding firm DCN has again partnered with Thales in planning the second French aircraft carrier, and was recently awarded a contract by the French Navy for total lifetime maintenance support for their fleet warships and major combat systems.

¶25. (U) The anticipated absorption of OCCAR (the Organization for Joint Armament Cooperation) into the European Defense Agency has stalled, although OCCAR did play a role in guiding the French and Italian defense ministries to select the General Electric engines for the European Multi-Mission Frigate (FREMM) in late 2005.

¶26. (U) The EU's European Capabilities Action Plan (ECAP) goal is to coordinate financing processes and to get European defense industry involved in identifying and filling gaps. There is also a recent effort to engage university research labs through funding made available from private industries. Further privatization and increased competitiveness of the French defense sector should support these trends.

¶27. (U) Tangential but significant issues to defense cooperation include continued pursuit of a Declaration of Principles (DoP) on armaments and end-use controls required by the U.S. on jointly produced systems, which prevent French sales to third parties without USG approval (viewed with concern by French government and private industry alike though France requires similar guarantees from their customers for French products). On the other hand, U.S. Presidential intervention in rejecting the so-called "buy American" provisions in the recent U.S. defense bill was well received.

¶28. (U) Recent overtures on the part of both the U.S. and French governments have led to an increase in official bilateral defense discussions and activity. The impending change of government in 2007 will have a significant impact on whether or not this trend continues. While France's 2005 vote against the EU referendum was seen as a setback to both the French government and to the EU's future, its full effect remains to be seen. As noted above, there are signs of consolidation of efforts among EU institutions, specifically in the defense arena. Economic realities and collective resolve should eventually determine whether these trends continue.

The Future of French Defense Spending

¶29. (U) Future French Defense budgets must conform to a

new inter-governmental finance law known by the acronym LOLF (Organic Law of the Finance Law). In this new framework, the funding made available to the Ministry of Defense abandons the traditional budget distributions by 'Titles' and instead is presented as 'missions and programs'. The most significant of these is the mission to 'Put into action the National Defense Policy'. Two of its supporting programs are 'Prepare the Force' and 'Equip the Force'. In all, the Defense Ministry budget will be organized around four missions and nine supporting programs. In an effort to improve the coherence of the defense budget, the LOLF ties budgetary allocations to performance. Also, for the first budget cycle under this new system, the Chiefs of Staff of the services have less influence on service budgets. Their role is now to assure the coherence of the budget rather than the direction of it. In a May 21, 2005 Presidential decree, the Chiefs of the Armed Services are now subordinate to the Chief of Defense (CHOD). The CHOD now controls all budgets and procurement financing. Service budgets now must pass through the CHOD before they go to the Minister's office for approval. (For more information on defense spending and the LOLF see paragraphs 111-113.)

130. (U) The 2006 defense budget represents a 2.2% increase over the 2005 fiscal year. In spite of the Defense Minister's ability to protect the defense budget from cuts, there continue to be difficulties for the French military in the future. These difficulties stem primarily from three areas: first, the inflationary pressures of the price of energy; second, cost overruns/delays in procurement; and third, increased maintenance costs. Most of the planning for the current five-year budget requests was predicated on the cost of a barrel of oil at half the current price. This increase will translate into fewer flying hours, fewer training days, and fewer days at sea in the next few years. Procurement of several current military systems is behind the original schedule or experiencing technical problems. These delays include the Tigre helicopter, Rafale fighter aircraft, A-400M transport aircraft, and the new command ship (BPC). The final expense increase will be the result of maintaining the older systems in the French military until sufficient numbers can replace them.

Transforming Military Capabilities

131. (U) In spite of not being part of the integrated military command structure of NATO, in January, 2004 France received two general officer billets within the command: one at Atlantic Command Operations (SHAPE) and one at Atlantic Command Transformation (Norfolk). The French have assigned 110 military personnel to the two headquarters, representing 2.04% of overall NATO staff posts. The French have also agreed to increase their contribution to Alliance military budgets from 4.9% to 7.4%. Nonetheless, despite disclaimers to the contrary, the French have given mixed signals over the past two years on their vision of the future NATO. These views have ranged from a desire for closer integration with NATO to generally limiting the scope of NATO's operations or in favor of an EU defense force.

132. (U) France has been a leading proponent to advance a "battle-group" concept to create rotational 1500-man size forces for use in Chapter VII mandates by the European Union. Based on the EU Operation ARTEMIS model (the French led deployment to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2003) the force would be capable of responding to a crisis within 15 days and be sustainable for 30 days minimum, 120 days maximum. Full operational capability is scheduled for 2007. The French insist that these battle groups would be compatible with NATO NRF rotations, with either taking the lead on the basis of a mutually-agreed decision. Africa has been mentioned as a primary venue for the battle-groups.

133. (U) The French Army is investing in UAVs, the Improved Infantry Armored Vehicle (VBCI), advanced communications equipment, counter-fire radars, and lighter equipment for armored units. They are beginning the process of digitization of the Army's battlefield systems and purchasing an individual soldier system - the Felin, the French Army's equivalent to the U.S. Army's Land Warrior system. These initiatives will enhance French abilities to interoperate with US forces and systems.

134. (U) The French Navy has stood up and qualified the HRF (M) headquarters staff, the naval component headquarters of France's NRF, in Toulon in 2004 and 2005. This force will deploy to the Gulf of Oman and Indian Ocean in 2006. Additionally, the Admiral, Naval Action Force (ALFAN) in Toulon has continued to develop over 2004 and 2005. This command is now roughly equivalent to the U.S. Fleet Forces

Command and has responsibilities for training, certifying, and equipping French naval forces. In an effort to improve intelligence support to the French Navy, the French stood up a French intelligence command called Centre de Renseignement Maritime (CRMar).

135. (U) In the context of trying to become more efficient and capable of joint and international operations, the French Air Force is in the process of a major reorganization. In November 2003, a project team of senior staff officers, outgoing base commanders and civilian consultants was created and given the mission to develop a plan to create a better Air Force. The project team started its work in September 2004 and unveiled the plan in October 2005. The ideas will be progressively implemented beginning in 2006. This ambitious reorganization project, named Air 2010, aims in particular at removing duplication and creating synergy. It will serve to optimize the air base network while preserving existing capabilities. In summary, the Air Force will replace the twelve current commands with four large functional 'poles.' The Operations Pole will be in charge of current operations in France and abroad. The Forces pole will be charged with leading the preparation and training of the whole of the combat forces. The Support Pole will bring together within the same staff all the maintenance, logistics, and life support. The Personnel Pole will join together all the personnel training and staff management functions.

136. (U) The French military is actively exploring ways to increase interoperability with the U.S. with respect to the global information grid and uses of information on the modern battlefield. As of late 2005, the French MOD has directed increased contact between French military officials and U.S. military officials in an effort to ensure the French capability to interoperate with the U.S. is maintained and improved. This French initiative is aimed at keeping up with the U.S. lead in information technology, particularly targeting data and friendly force tracking. The French desperately want to preserve the ability to conduct combat operations with the U.S. in every domain air, land, and sea.

Recent Contingency Operations, Military Assistance, Humanitarian Relief Operations, Peacekeeping, Capacity Building, Counterproliferation and Nuclear Threat Reduction.

137. (U) The French continue to show their support for operations in Afghanistan. In 2006, they are planning to augment their forces to support the increased responsibilities of the Kabul regional command in addition to the military assets already in place in support of ISAF and OEF (see paragraphs 53-56 for more detail). Furthermore, the French continue to be actively involved in the fight against terrorism through the OEF Task Force 150 and in the US Counter-Drug effort (see paragraphs 59-60 for more detail.)

138. (U) The French Army has been training the Afghan National Army within the overall U.S.-led program since its inception and the French have consistently expressed a desire to be part of NATO's transformation and interoperability initiatives as evidenced by their significant national contributions to the NATO Response Force (NRF) (see paragraphs 66-67 for more detail).

139. (U) In the Balkans, French forces remain among the largest contributors to operations in Kosovo and French participation in the former NATO SFOR mission in Bosnia continued under the EU Force, Operation Althea. The French continue to maintain a small French military presence in Macedonia. They also provide a small presence force in Georgia. (See paragraphs 70-71 for more detail).

140. (U) In Africa, France has provided 80 million euros to Darfur through the African Union and provides support to Chad on a bilateral basis. The French transported the Senegalese units of the AU force to Sudan and the Nigerian police contingent. (See paragraph 72 for more detail).

141. (U) In response to natural disasters in 2004 and 2005 France contributed substantially to Pakistan Earthquake relief efforts, the South Asian Tsunami relief efforts, and relief efforts after hurricane Katrina hit the southern United States. (See paragraphs 73-81 for more detail).

142. (U) The major part of France's efforts at capacity building in the world is focused on Africa where France relies on its forces stationed in seven nations to conduct most of its capacity building operations (see paragraphs 82-85 for more detail). Also, 4000 French troops stand alongside UNOCI in Operation Licorne in Cote d'Ivoire in support of the UN operation, in addition to the French

permanent base in Abidjan.

143. (U) French Gendarmerie has taken the lead in the development of the European Gendarmerie Force. French Gendarmes are also deployed in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Haiti (MINUSTAH), Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, and the Central Africa Republic. They also conducted training in Kinshasa, Kenya (see paragraphs 86-89 for more detail).

144. (U) In the summer of 2004, the French also began a joint fighter pilot training school in Cazeaux, France (see paragraph 90 for more detail).

145. (U) As a nuclear state, France endorses deterrence theory and holds to long-standing NATO doctrines. It has consistently supported international arms control regimes as a means of bolstering stability and transparency. In addition to its continued support for international mechanisms to limit proliferation, France with their British and German colleagues pursued EU3 negotiations to obtain Iranian compliance with Iran's Safeguard Agreement commitments. EU3 efforts led to the signing of the Paris Agreement in November 2004. Iranian resumption of conversion in August 2005, and research on enrichment in December 2005, led to suspension of Paris Agreement discussions. France and its EU partners, with U.S. support, continue to pursue efforts to convince Iran to suspend its nuclear ambitions. (See paragraphs 91-93 for more detail).

146. (U) The French military continues to maintain strong contacts with the U.S. and other NATO countries for contingency planning. During 2004 and 2005, France conducted planning and exchanges with EUCOM and CENTCOM. French and U.S. analysts and planners share information on terrorism and WMD proliferation as well as political-military developments. From the beginning of operations in Afghanistan (both OEF and ISAF), and the Lebanon crisis, French and U.S. planners have continued to work together to produce effective, timely results. French forces permanently or temporarily stationed in Africa and Central Asia have assisted U.S. operations in the EUCOM and CENTCOM theater of operations.

REF A PARAS 9-10: DIRECT COST-SHARING

147. (U) No direct cost sharing activities occur in France

REF A PARA 11: INDIRECT COST SHARING

148. (U) No indirect cost-sharing activities as described in Ref A paragraph 11 occur in France. However the U.S. did receive several types of miscellaneous indirect cost-sharing benefits from France as described below.

Overflight Clearances, Port Access, Use of French Facilities

149. (U) In 2004, France granted overflight and landing clearances to 1842 USG missions. 977 of these missions were in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. 76 of these missions supported operations in the Balkans. During 2005, France granted 2061 overflight and landing clearances to USG missions. 811 of these missions supported OIF while 68 supported Balkan operations. France continued to grant blanket overflight clearances to most USG missions allowing over flights of and landings in France without notice.

150. (U) The 744 Expeditionary Air Base Group operated three KC-135 tanker aircraft from Istres Airbase in southern France during most of 2004. This group of 100 US military personnel flew air refueling missions supporting operations in the Balkans. The French provided fuel tax-free. The mission ended in December 2004.

151. (U) Tax concessions on fuel and landing fees for non-operational missions during 2004 totaled approximately 4000 dollars. During 2005 these concessions totaled 8450 dollars.

152. (U) During 2004 the US Navy made 14 port calls to facilities in metropolitan France. In 2005 the number of

port calls was 29. In all cases, the French Navy provided excellent support and force protection services without cost. Additionally, no taxes were imposed for supplies or parts for US ships visiting French ports.

REF A PARA 12 RECENT CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, HUMANITARIAN RELIEF OPERATIONS, CAPACITY BUILDING, COUNTERPROLIFERATION, AND NUCLEAR THREAT REDUCTION

Subparagraph A: Recent Contingency operations (See French Force Disposition and External Operations Table for personnel numbers)

153. (U) The French were among the first nations to volunteer troops to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission in Afghanistan and France continues to be responsible for Kabul International Airport and the area north of Kabul to the U.S. base at Bagram. A French battalion has been a part of ISAF since December 2001. From August 2004 to February 2005, a French general commanded the NATO-led ISAF. France has proposed an increased role in ISAF and offered to lead Regional Command-Kabul as part of the NATO reorganization and expansion of ISAF. In October 2005, France and Turkey announced that they would co-lead Regional Command-Kabul. The French are planning to augment their forces from the current 700 in ISAF to between 1,000 - 1,200 personnel to support the increased responsibilities of the regional command to include providing a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) battalion. The French have continued to provide a military police detachment in support of ISAF.

154. (U) Supporting OEF, the French Armed Forces continue to be actively involved in the fight against terrorism. 200 members of the French Special Forces are currently deployed in the South of Afghanistan alongside U.S. Special Forces in military operations against the Taliban.

155. (U) France assigned liaison officers to the U.S. staff headquarters in Tampa to ensure the interface between the military authorities of the two countries. French forces were directly involved in the fight against terrorism by carrying out the following missions:

156. (U) The air and sea group took part in air operations above Afghanistan in April-May 2004 (84 aircrafts were involved in operational missions for 450 flight hours). The French Air Force deployed within less than 48 hours six Mirage 2000D and two refueling aircraft from metropolitan France to the deployable airbase in Manas (Kyrgyzstan) which played a key role in the prosecution of air campaigns.

157. (U) In addition, two C160 airplanes with 130 soldiers of the Air Force have been operating in Dushanbe (Tajikistan) since December 3, 2001, totaling 10,000 flight hours. This detachment is focused on airlifting the French Forces operating in different areas in Afghanistan.

158. (U) In October 2004, three Mirage F1CR and one tanker C135FR were deployed in Dushanbe to carry out tactical reconnaissance missions for ISAF and the coalition against terrorism. To help promote the development of democracy in Afghanistan in close collaboration with its allies, the French Air Force again deployed an air detachment in Dushanbe, from August through November 2005 during the parliamentary elections. Within ISAF, the detachment, which includes three Mirage F1CR, three Mirage 2000D and two tankers C135FR based in Manas, was intended to establish an air presence throughout the country and support ground forces operations to deter any action likely to disrupt the elections. It was also entrusted with the mission to undertake reconnaissance and fire support operations supporting OEF.

159. Finally, the French military participates in the fight against terrorism within the OEF Task Force 150 (TF 150). The Task Force is actively involved in the following operations:

- monitoring air and sea movements in the Red Sea, the Sea of Oman, the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf,
- prohibiting the filtration of terrorists to the Arabian Peninsula or the Horn of Africa,
- fighting against illegal trafficking (weapons, drugs etc.),
- fighting against piracy and banditry acts.

160. (U) Since February 2003, a EUROMARFOR task group is part of the TF 150 and operates under the command of the U.S. staff. The French Navy greatly contributes to the TF 150 (about a quarter of the Task Force) with three ships operating on a permanent basis. France took command of TF 150 twice from September 2003 to January 2004 and from June to September 2004.

161. (U) An aircraft based in Djibouti, which was incorporated into the Task Force 57 (TF 57), is intended to patrol in coordination with the TF 150 ships. The 62 French ships involved in Operation Enduring Freedom since 15 December 2001 totaled more than 6,000 days at sea.

162. (U) The French Navy's strong participation in CTF-150, both by continuously providing ships and often providing a command staff in the Indian Ocean, particularly off of Somalia and the Gulf of Oman, and the presence of French Navy liaison personnel at NAVCENT Headquarters in Bahrain makes possible a good degree of interaction and cooperation in this key region. The French also maintain maritime patrol aircraft worldwide and cooperate with the U.S. Navy where there is common interest.

163. (U) The French also participate in the US Counter-Drug effort with Naval Forces. A French military officer is assigned to the Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF South) in Key West, to ensure coordination with French forces in the Caribbean. Fort-de-France in Martinique supports U.S. Navy and Coast Guard units with port visits and the Navy Command in Fort-de-France has assisted the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard with the movement of personnel and weapons between various ships and aircraft. The direct participation of the French Navy in counter-drug operations consists of the deployment of frigates to the region to work with U.S. forces on a regular basis and the use of Maritime Patrol Aircraft deployed to the region.

164. (U) In 2004, the French Navy stopped three drug trafficking ships in the Antilles and one Togolese ship in the Gulf of Guinea with 450 kg of cocaine. The counter drug effort of the French Navy in 2004 was 199 days at sea, 156 hours of flight, 2058 ships queried, four ships intercepted, and 1020 kg of drugs seized.

165. (U) In 2004, the French Navy effort against clandestine immigration equaled 683 days at sea, 904 flight hours, three ships intercepted, 43 clandestine immigrants turned over to border police.

Subparagraph B. Military Assistance:
NRF/NTMI/Afghanistan/NATO PKO.

166. (U) The French Army has been training the Afghan National Army within the overall U.S.-led program since its inception. Since 2002, the French have trained more than 2,000 Afghans. This includes three of the initial battalions; they have set-up the officer basic course and the staff officer's course. The French are currently participating in the Embedded Training Team concept with French Army soldiers assigned to mentor an Afghan battalion in Kandahar.

167. (U) The French have consistently expressed a desire to be part of NATO's transformation and interoperability initiatives as evidenced by their significant national contributions to the NATO Response Force (NRF). By participating in NRFs 1 through 6, the total French military contribution equals up to 40 percent of ground units, 30 percent of air assets, and 20 percent of naval capabilities. The French air force provides the deployable combined air operations center (CAOC) for the European led NRF. In January 2005, the French air force conducted AIREX 2005, a training exercise, to prepare for command of NRF-05 in July. On July 1st, the French air force became the Joint Forces Air Component Commander (JFACC) of NRF-05 for six months. In 2004, NATO sent the NRF's Land Component Command Headquarters, the French led EUROCORPS, to lead the ISAF in Afghanistan. As part of NRF 5, NATO activated France's Joint Forces Air Component Commander (JFACC) to coordinate the air movements for the Pakistan earthquake relief effort. On 1 October 2005, the French formally created a multinational headquarters to serve as the Land Component Command for future rotations of the NRF.

168. (U) In 2005, the French also established a Maritime Component Command HQ to serve in future iterations of NATO's NRF. The French Navy successfully stood-up the High-Readiness Force Maritime (HRF-M) staff in Toulon and qualified the staff during an at-sea exercise in 2005. This staff, will serve its rotational duties as an on-call force, ahead of schedule, and is being used by the French for out-of-area operations, for example, during the

upcoming Arabian Sea/Indian Ocean deployment of the Charles de Gaulle Carrier Battle Group in early 2006. There is one U.S. Naval Officer assigned to the HRF-M staff.

169. (U) The French government has forbidden its military from contributing troops to the NATO training mission inside Iraq (NTM-1). One French officer is working on the training mission staff at SHAPE Headquarters in Belgium, and the GoF pledged 660,000 euros in February 2005 to help finance NTM-1. In 2005, the GoF took initial steps to contribute to the development of Iraqi defense and security capabilities. Under the European Union's EUJUSTLEX program, France has pledged to train 200 Iraqi police officials and judges in rule of law training in France, making France the top EU contributor to this program. Approximately 40 Iraqi police officials (non-military) completed month-long training at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Officiers de Police and the Ecole Nationale de Police in 2005. A third course started at the end of 2005 for judicial instruction at the Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature. At the same time, a French offer to train up to 1,500 Iraqi paramilitary police (gendarmes) outside Iraq remains unimplemented, although an Iraqi Ministry of Interior delegation visited France in July 2005 to further discuss the proposal. Currently there is a single Gendarme Officer in Iraq, responsible for provision of security for French embassy staff in Baghdad.

170. (U) In the Balkans, French forces remain among the largest contributors to operations in Kosovo. French participation in the former NATO SFOR mission in Bosnia continued under the EU Force, Operation Althea. 210 Gendarmes supported both the United Nations Interim mission in Kosovo and the NATO Intervention Forces in Kosovo. French Lieutenant General de Kermabon transferred authority as COMKFOR on 1 September 2005 after one year of command, the second time France has commanded KFOR. The French government provided approximately 60 gendarmes, including 20 officers to help combat organized crime under the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Additionally, they provided European Union Police and military police in support of European Union Forces in Bosnia.

171. (U) The French continue to maintain a small French military presence (15 personnel) in Macedonia providing international police in support of the European Police Mission. They also provide a small presence force (three military observers) in Georgia to help support the U.N. monitoring mission.

172. (U) Regarding peacekeeping efforts in Africa, there has been ongoing debate as to NATO's role in Africa. This debate was most evident during the 2005 crisis in Darfur with France focusing its support for the AU through the EU. France, however, honored its pledge to SECSTATE that it would not oppose a NATO role in the crisis. France has provided 80 million euros to Darfur through the African Union and provides support to Chad on a bilateral basis. French troops and aircraft are conducting ground and air border security. During 2005, France provided refueling support to NATO and EU aircraft at Abech in Eastern Chad, as well as personnel recovery capabilities using three C-160 transport aircraft and three Puma helicopters. The French transported the Senegalese units of the AU force to Sudan and the Nigerian police contingent.

Subpara C: Humanitarian Relief Operations
NATO/HMRO/Pakistan/Katrina/Tsunami

173. (U) In 2003, France allotted 9.3 million euros (USD 11.2 million) to what it termed Emergency Humanitarian Assistance, all of which was channeled through the Emergency Humanitarian Aid Fund of the MFA. In 2004, the initial allotment was 9.3 million euros (USD 11.2 million). The fund may be increased on an extraordinary basis to finance unexpected operations; this was the case in 2005, when France announced an emergency increased allotment of 2.8 million euros (USD 3.4 million) in favor of the victims of natural disasters or civil crises, primarily focused on the victims of the tsunami in Thailand, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Indonesia, and India, and an additional allocation of 5.6 million euros (USD 6.7 million) for the victims of the earthquake in Pakistan (see paragraphs below). The additional aid is imputed into the 2005 balance sheet bringing the total amount of emergency donations to 16,147,081 million euros. Allotments in 2006 are projected to increase to benefit victims of 2005's Hurricane Katrina in the United States. For an economic analysis of general Grant Aid and Humanitarian Assistance see paragraphs 117-221.

174. (U) Pakistan Relief. The French contributed 82 military personnel to the Pakistan relief effort. In

addition, the French air force deployed two C-130 Hercules military transport aircraft to deliver relief supplies. The effort included medical service personnel, a surgical team, and support personnel (communications, equipment, and logistics) in Pakistan. Forty-six of the military personnel were inserted into the various NATO elements in Islamabad, Lisbon, Germany, and Turkey. Additionally, as part of NRF 5, NATO activated France's JFACC to coordinate the air movement piece of the relief effort. The JFACC at Taverney, near Paris has 23 French, five UK, and one U.S. officer assigned.

175. (U) KATRINA Relief. The NRF was activated in September 2005 after hurricane Katrina. At the same time, France used its Joint Forces Air Component (JFACC) to task the French Air Force to collect and deliver the 150 tons of European supplies for Louisiana. This support was delivered to Ramstein airbase, Germany. The French air force also provided two transport aircraft to move over four tons of supplies, including tents, tarps, and 1000 rations, to the US from the Caribbean. Along with these supplies, the French provided a team of four civil security personnel to help assess future U.S. needs and distribute assistance. Two French liaison officers were posted to the Joint Forces Commander in Lisbon to help coordinate all European assistance. An Airbus Beluga aircraft also delivered 12.7 tons of emergency equipment to Mobile, Alabama;

176. (U) The French Navy deployed a team of 17 Navy divers to assist with the Katrina disaster. This was facilitated by the fact that the French maintain a liaison officer with the U.S. Mine Warfare Command in Corpus Christi, Texas. The 17 French divers worked from September 11, 2005 to October 8, 2005 helping to clear waterways of debris and recover vessels.

177. (U) The GOF also offered the following contributions to assist with Katrina disaster recovery:
--The "Gendarmerie nationale" offered experts in forensic police;
--The GOF (with Airbus) offered to send an additional 20-30,000 food rations.

178. (U) Tsunami Relief. The French Navy worked with U.S. forces and other willing partners following the December 26, 2004 Tsunami in South East Asia. In response to this disaster, the French Navy re-routed its helicopter carrier, Jeanne D'Arc, and, after picking up extra emergency supplies from the French base in Djibouti, sent the units